

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Fifth Edition | November 2020

This newsletter includes the latest news about:

- I. Malabar's proposed underground-only mine, the Maxwell Underground Project and the upcoming IPC public hearing
- II. Our work with the local community
- III. Our progress rehabilitating the Maxwell Infrastructure site; and
- IV. The latest on the Maxwell Solar Farm

Who we are

Malabar Resources is an independent and Australian-owned resources company with projects based in the Hunter Valley in New South Wales. We are industry leaders in underground, longwall coal mining.

We own:

- the Maxwell Underground Project (located at EL5460)
- the approved Maxwell Solar Farm
- the now-closed Drayton Mine and associated infrastructure – re-named “Maxwell Infrastructure”
- the Spur Hill Project exploration licence (EL 7429)

Maxwell Underground Project update

It has been a very busy twelve months since our last newsletter and the Malabar team has been working hard through the planning approvals process for the Maxwell Underground Project – our underground-only coal mining proposal that will produce high quality **steel making coal** and deliver about **250 construction jobs** and **350 jobs during operation** into the region.

To recap the period, in **September 2019** the public exhibition period for the Project's comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement concluded. This consultation resulted in the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment receiving 231 submissions, **77% of which expressed support** for the Project being approved.

In September 2020, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) released its Whole of Government Assessment Report, which considered every piece of information available, including independent environmental reports and community feedback. The Assessment Report's key recommendation was that the Project is **in the public interest and can proceed**, subject to conditions.

The Maxwell Underground Project has now been referred to the Independent Planning Commission of NSW (IPC), which will hold a public hearing into the Project on **11 November 2020**, giving the community another chance to have their say before a final determination is made.

Maxwell Project IPC Public Hearing

The Independent Planning Commission is an independent government agency that determines whether State Significant Developments that are referred to it by the Minister for Planning can proceed.

To make their decision, the IPC conducts public hearings, which allows community members to have their say.

The public hearing for the Maxwell Underground Project has been scheduled for 11 November and Malabar encourages the community to participate. While public hearings usually take place at a local town hall, the Maxwell hearing will be conducted electronically by video conference due to COVID-19 physical distancing requirements.

There are two ways to participate in the public hearing:

1. lodge a written submission and/or
2. request to speak at the hearing.

If you would like to apply to speak you must complete a registration form available on the IPC website by no later than 5pm on 4 November 2020. To lodge a submission, go to the IPC's online portal to submit your comment or send an email to ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au.

All of this information can be found on the IPC website, available here: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2020/09/maxwell-underground-coal-mine-project>

The hearing will be an invaluable opportunity for the community to discuss the Project in a transparent forum, so if you're having any trouble lodging a submission or registering to speak, please feel free to give us a call on 02 6542 0283 and we can run you through the process.

Local Benefits

A local project needs to benefit locals. For Malabar, this means putting the region and its communities first.

More jobs for the region

To continue to be a vibrant community, we need a wide range of jobs, for a wide range of people. Malabar estimates the project will generate about **350 new direct, long term jobs** for the region along with many more indirect jobs. These jobs will generate around **\$55 million in wages** delivered into the local economy each year. Malabar will also provide training for local people so the skills to operate an underground mine can be developed within the local area and support the sustainability of the region.

Supporting local business

The Project will support the vitality and growth of local and regional businesses, through spending on capital infrastructure and ongoing operating inputs (such as maintenance supplies and services along with a range of professional services).

Malabar has provided funding to local community groups for over eight years and will continue to provide support for a range of organisations.

Certainty

Certainty that there will never be an open-cut coal mine within EL 5460.

An economic boost for the State

The Project will generate **\$1 billion to \$1.25 billion for the NSW State Government and local Council** through coal royalties, taxes and council rates over the initial 26 years of the project, providing funds for hospitals, schools and regional infrastructure.

It will also provide **\$500 million to \$700 million annually** in export income for NSW.

Better rehabilitation outcomes

Malabar will deliver a **more visually appealing final landform outcome** by placing reject stone and rock from underground operations in the legacy voids at the former Drayton Mine.

Co-existence

The Maxwell Project is designed to have **minimal effect on our neighbours while enhancing existing local industries and activities**.

This means the community can continue to reap the benefits of many different strong local industries that have worked side by side for over a century, and all the jobs and economic investment they provide.



Malabar in the community

As an active part of the local community, we are always looking for opportunities to support a wide range of local groups, businesses and charities. Over the last twelve months, we've focused on areas where we can have the greatest impact – including supporting the elderly, encouraging greater understanding of Aboriginal culture and heritage, and raising awareness for youth mental health.

The pandemic has had a profound impact on the elderly in our community, so to help provide some relief, we donated hampers to **Calvary Muswellbrook Retirement Community residents**, who have experienced reduced visits from relatives.

And in October, we helped fund the continuation of 'window therapy' for the aged-care residents at **Merton Court Hostel in Denman**, providing them with much-appreciated COVID-safe entertainment.



To support our local youth experiencing homelessness, we donated \$1000 toward the **PCYC Muswellbrook Humble Homes program**. This is a vital local service that helps re-home local families who are relocating from domestic violence situations and provides housing services for homeless youth under 25.

We also fully-funded **Youth Mental Health First Aid** training in August, with training facilitated by the Upper Hunter community organisation **Where There's a Will**. COVID-19 has had a terrible impact on mental health, and the training was an opportunity to improve wellbeing and mental health in our schools, families and local community.



We've continued partnering with several local schools, with our most recent project being the construction of a Yarning Circle at **St James' in Muswellbrook**, which involved the placement of more than 5000kg of sandstone blocks on the school's grounds. St James' will use the Yarning Circle as an extension of their classrooms, to provide a harmonious and collaborative way of communicating and problem solving for both indigenous and non-indigenous students.

Rehabilitation update

Since our last update, Malabar has made major progress on the rehabilitation of the Drayton open-cut mine with more than **849 hectares** of land rehabilitated on site. In the past 18 months, we have planted over **44,000 trees** within our existing woodland corridor.

We've also had fantastic results from our cattle grazing project, which began in 2018 in partnership with local farmers, Rob and Kell Parish. They originally introduced 50 steers onto pasture rehabilitation and increased the herd in 2019 to include heifers being strategically rotated between four paddocks located on the site.

In September, their Angus x Charolais heifers that grazed on the rehabilitation topped the market at the Singleton sale yards!

Maxwell Solar Farm update

In September 2020, we were delighted to be informed that the NSW Government approved the Maxwell Solar Farm.

The Maxwell Solar Farm is a 25MW solar farm located on a portion of the rehabilitated Drayton open-cut. The solar farm will generate 60 GWH (Giga-watt-hours) annually, providing sufficient energy for about 10,000 homes or nearly all the homes in Muswellbrook and Singleton combined.

The solar farm will create roughly 50 new construction jobs and up to two operational jobs over its 30-year life span, stimulating local business and employment during this period of economic recovery.

Contact Us

If you would like to register for further information about the Maxwell Underground Project, please send an email titled *'Register for Maxwell Project Information'* to info@malabarresources.com.au and include your name, address and phone number.

If you have any other questions about Malabar Resources or the Maxwell Project, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Donna McLaughlin
Health, Safety, Environment and
Community Manager

Email: info@malabarresources.com.au
Phone: (02) 6542 0283
Web: www.malabarresources.com.au