

## MAXWELL UNDERGROUND PROJECT EIS ON PUBLIC DISPLAY

14 August 2019

Malabar Coal (Malabar) today announced the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Maxwell Underground Project (Maxwell Project) has been released and is now on public display. The exhibition period will run for 42 days. Community members and other stakeholders are encouraged to have their say on the proposed development before 25 September 2019.

The Maxwell Project is a proposed underground coal mine located in the Upper Hunter, south of Muswellbrook. It will deliver 350 new jobs and contribute to a stronger and more prosperous local community for decades to come.

Malabar Chairman, Wayne Seabrook, said the Australian-owned, NSW-based company had designed the project with community and stakeholder feedback front of mind.

“A top priority for the community is to ensure that the region has a vibrant and diverse economy that supports many different sectors. With that in mind, the Maxwell Project has been carefully designed to ensure that the community can enjoy the significant economic boost this project will create, without negatively impacting other local industries and land uses.

“We encourage all community members to take a close look at the EIS and to provide their feedback,” Mr Seabrook said.

The Maxwell Project will deliver a number of important benefits for the local community and NSW more broadly. These include:

- 350 new, direct, long-term local jobs and many more indirect jobs.
- \$55 million in wages to be injected in to the local economy each year.
- An additional \$1-1.25 billion to the NSW Government and local Council through royalties, taxes and council rates, providing funds for hospitals, schools and regional infrastructure.
- \$500 million to \$700 million annually in export income for NSW.

As part of the planning and community consultation process, Malabar made several important decisions to minimise the mine’s impact. For example:

- Malabar formally requested revisions to the Exploration Licence to ensure that mining on the site can only ever be underground mining. This will dramatically reduce potential impacts like dust, noise and light on our neighbours. Malabar also supported the additional protection of a SEPP imposed by the NSW government to reinforce underground only at this location.
- The mine entry for the Maxwell Project has been carefully placed in a valley 5 km north of the Golden Highway behind a ridge line. This means it cannot be seen from the Highway or the local horse studs.
- Access to the mine entry will be via Thomas Mitchell Drive, reducing any impact on the local rural and tourist road networks.
- Malabar will only mine below freehold land it owns and has voluntarily relinquished the part of the Exploration Licence beneath and south of the Golden Highway.

The comprehensive EIS is supported by detailed studies which were prepared by recognised scientific experts.

It includes studies of agriculture and agribusiness, water, biodiversity, heritage, air quality, amenity and the road network, all of which have determined the mine can proceed safely and in accordance with best practice environmental standards.

Following the public display period, the EIS will be assessed against the requirements of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to ensure it meets the strictest environmental standards.

Community members can have their say on the EIS by visiting the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10151>.

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Media contact: Sophie Travers, 0419 609 236