

MAXWELL UNDERGROUND PROJECT RECEIVES EPBC APPROVAL

11 March 2021

Malabar Resources has welcomed the Commonwealth Government decision to grant *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC) approval for the Maxwell Underground Project near Muswellbrook in the New South Wales Upper Hunter.

EPBC determination follows project approval by the NSW Independent Planning Commission in December 2020 as well as a comprehensive and technical review by independent experts, and rigorous assessment by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Malabar Resources Chairman Wayne Seabrook welcomed the announcement and said this is another important step for Malabar and local communities of the Upper Hunter.

“Today’s news is another important step forward in what has been a much longer journey with our neighbours to ensure the project continues to meet the expectations of everyone in our community.

“The Maxwell Underground Project represents huge potential for the communities of the Upper Hunter.

“It will deliver about 250 construction jobs and 350 jobs during operation into the region, generating \$55 million in annual wages once the project is up and running.

“We’re very excited to have already started a preliminary hiring process and to be offering local jobs.

“The project will also support local businesses and suppliers over the next three decades, and provide a real boost to the local economy in what has been a challenging past 12 months.”

The Maxwell Underground Project will produce high quality coals with at least 75% capable of being used in the making of steel.

Over the initial 26 years, the Maxwell Project will provide \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion in royalties to the NSW State Government and around \$150 million to the local Council and State Government through, payroll tax, land tax, levies, council rates, and council planning agreement payments.

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