



THE HON. DON HARWIN, MINISTER FOR RESOURCES

OPEN CUT SHUT

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY NEWS SINCE I LAST WROTE HAS BEEN THE RENEWAL OF EXPLORATION LICENCE (EL) 5460, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS DRAYTON SOUTH.

We all know from Anglo's attempts that the Independent Planning Assessment Commission has sent a clear message - there is no place for an open cut mine at the site. New owner - Malabar - has

made it clear that they would only ever look to mine underground. Malabar has already relinquished all parts of the EL south of, and including, the Golden

Highway. They would only consider an underground mine proposal, which would occur to the north of the Golden Highway. We want a sustainable equine industry in the Hunter Valley and we also have a responsibility to consider the development of our resources industry. Ensuring the continuation of responsible and sustainable mining in the

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Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven."
Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven."
Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and

another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Six."
Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"
Johnny: "Seven!"
Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"
Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

Hunter Valley is vital for our economy. THE MINING INDUSTRY INJECTS AROUND \$25 BILLION INTO THE NSW ECONOMY EACH YEAR, PROVIDING JOBS FOR ABOUT 20,000 PEOPLE - MANY OF THESE OCCUPIED BY YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE HUNTER. So, our decision announced last December provides certainty to the community and local industry, including the internationally renowned

equine operations in the area. I would like to make clear that there is still - as yet - no proposal for a mine, and any proposed project would have to go through the planning system where it would be subject to rigorous assessment, and of course extensive community consultation. I wish you and your families all the best for the year ahead and I look forward to speaking to you further @ *The Coal Face* throughout 2018.

MALABAR MOVES FORWARD

IT WAS GOOD NEWS FOR MALABAR COAL BACK IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR WITH THE NSW GOVERNMENT RENEWING EXPLORATION LICENCE EL 5460.

Underground mining exploration will be permitted on the site, potentially providing jobs and boosting the local economy. As part of the renewal Malabar Coal has agreed to voluntarily relinquish all the licence area south of the Golden Highway. In a statement, Malabar Coal said, "We are very pleased to be provided with this opportunity to develop

a vastly different proposal for a future underground mine on the site. With the exploration licence renewed, we will now turn our attention to undertaking the very rigorous and detailed technical studies required to prepare a development application, which will incorporate the existing Drayton Mine infrastructure." "If approved, Project Maxwell will

create around 350 new direct jobs into the local community, \$1.7 billion in royalties over the initial 30-year period, \$600m per year in export income for NSW, \$55m per year in wages and \$100m per year in taxes. Past proposals involved open cut mining but the new proposal by Malabar has addressed all of the

previous concerns with their underground approach making a dramatic difference in terms of impacts associated with dust, light, blasting, and noise. Although Malabar's proposal is for only underground mining the NSW Government has also announced that there will be no open cut mining allowed at the Drayton South site regardless of ownership.



KEEPING THE COAL ROLLING

GLENCORE HAVE BIG PLANS FOR INTEGRA UNDERGROUND AND ARE LOOKING TO EXTRACT AN EXTRA 9.9 MILLION TONNES OF COAL.

Glencore have lodged an Environmental Assessment with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for an expansion project at Integra Underground. If approved, it will provide

ongoing employment for workers who would otherwise be out of a job once the current approved longwalls are completed. The plan will see expansions of existing longwalls 15, 16 and 17

and the introduction of three new longwalls. They are also seeking approval to build additional surface works including new electricity lines. The NSW Government's Division of Resources and Geoscience put the value of the extra coal at \$900 million over six years.

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