

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: FW: Dartbrook Underground Mine Reopening Approval Application
Date: Tuesday, 16 April 2019 2:37:41 PM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 16 April 2019 9:55 AM
To: 'ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Dartbrook Underground Mine Reopening Approval Application

To the Commissioners of the independent Planning Commission.

I would like to put forward my submission for the reopening of Dartbrook Underground mine in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

There are some people in the local community objecting to the reopening of Dartbrook Mine and some of the submissions you will receive will be very impressive, but they will not be looking at the approval application as it should be as they will base their objection on the appearances and concerns from and about other things and issues that are not related to the application to reopen the underground mine.

The application is for the Dartbrook Mine to go from a long wall mine back to a board and pillar mine.

As I have spent over 30 yrs working in underground coal mines in both board and pillar and long wall, I am aware of the difference of both styles of mining.

To go back to board and pillar mining from long wall will not change anything from the approval the mine already has other than the size of the block of coal to be removed. The blocks in a board and pillar mine are smaller in size than the blocks in a long wall.

The people that are objecting to this mine to reopen should be looking at the work it will generate in the area, not just at the mine only, but also the benefit to the local industries that also employ local people as well as giving young people a pathway through the local TAFE to become trades engineers surveyors office staff and managers persons and keep these young people in the country area.

The people that are objecting to the reopening of the Dartbrook Mine have a lot of talent from the submission I did see at the IPC hearing in Muswellbrook on Tuesday the 9/4/2019

The talent these people show would be better used and utilized by looking for a way to solve what they are objecting to and taking their ideas to the companies they are objecting to, to see if their ideas would work to solve the thing they are objecting about. I will use example of what I am trying to say, a coal mine called Grasree in Queensland where the workers or a group of workers at mine commenced to build and test equipment to be attached to underground mine equipment to decrease the amount of dust the mining machine and equipment produces.

These workers look at a hazard from working in the mining industry and came up with a way they could decrease the hazard and came up with a solution

The hazard was dust related which was causing workers at some mine sites to contract black lung disease.

The workers had the support of the company to try and come up with a way to decrease the dust hazard which they did successfully.

If people can use their talent to address problems instead of complaining about things this country and the world would be a far better place to live in.

Mining in all forms, benefit this country and the world cannot survive because all our ever day needs, come from some form of mining. e.g.

- Steam coal - also known as thermal coal - is mainly used in power generation.
- Coking coal - also known as metallurgical coal - is mainly used in steel production.

Other important users of coal include alumina refineries, paper manufacturers, and the chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Several chemical products can be produced from the by-products of coal. Refined coal tar is used in the manufacture of chemicals, such as creosote oil, naphthalene, phenol, and benzene. Ammonia gas recovered from coke ovens is used to manufacture ammonia salts, nitric acid and agricultural fertilizers. Thousands of different products have coal or coal by-products as components: soap, aspirins, solvents, dyes, plastics and fibres, such as rayon and nylon.

Coal is also an essential ingredient in the production of specialist products:

- **Activated carbon - used in filters for water and air purification and in kidney dialysis machines.**
- Carbon fibre - an extremely strong but light weight reinforcement material used in construction, mountain bikes and tennis rackets.
- Silicon metal - used to produce silicones and silanes, which are in turn used to make lubricants, water repellents, resins, cosmetics, hair shampoos and toothpastes.

The Thoroughbred Breeders are not looking at what they use on a daily base in their operation that come from mining. All they are looking at, is the appearance of the mines in the area. All mines have to adhere environmentally to their development application and they do carry out the planting of trees, the construction of visual bunds etc.

The dust levels in the local would have increased because the whole state is in drought and has been for the pass 3-5years or more and the increase in dust is not all from mining a lot of the increased dust is from Agricultural land animals moving around and every day farming operations even with the rain the local area has received in the last month the area looks nice and green there is No Sub Soil Moisture and this can be seen by digging a fence post hole this area is not out of the drought yet so until there is descendant sub soil moisture the dust level will be up

The Dartbrook mine is a underground mine and really has no visual discrepancies and for years has been supporting a 900 herd of milking cows on the surface of its land with no detrimental effect to visual appearance or herd over the past decade.

A lot of mine employees support the horse industry whether in the racing side or for their children in other forms of horse riding.

I am also disappointed in the local media about the reporting that came out of the hearing on the 9/4/2019 which reported on the objections on why the mine should not reopen and very little on those submissions which supported the reopening. It just shows the bias that occurs in the media. The media should give the facts for both sides and take any personal agenda out of the discussion.

So this is why I am asking you, the commissioners to approve the reopening of Dartbrook Mine and with your approval I ask you to give as a part of the approval, that when the mine needs to go back to long wall extraction, that this is included in the approval.

Thank You for allowing me to put my submission in, to support of the Reopening of Dartbrook Underground Mine

If any of the commissioners would like to speak with me about my submission please feel free to call me day or night on [REDACTED]

Thank You

Trevor woods