

BLACK DAY FOR THE HUNTER - TIME FOR PROTECTION

22 December 2020

Today's decision by the IPC to allow underground mining across the road from two of Australia's premier studs is extremely disappointing." Dr Cameron Collins, President of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association said"

This is a black day for our industry and the Hunter. Our concerns about the impacts of this mine on water, air, noise and blasting, aboriginal heritage and landscape remain unabated. In our view the claimed benefits of this proposal do not outweigh the environmental costs and risks to our community.

"We will carefully examine the IPC's determination and consider our options" Dr Collins said

For the past ten years we have been promised protection to safeguard the Hunter's thoroughbred breeding industry – a state recognised critical industry cluster. Coalition policies, former Premiers, Deputy Premiers and Planning Ministers and four previous PACs have all recognised the importance of our industry and the need for protection.

Today's decision stands in stark contrast to these commitments. The NSW Premier must now step in and deliver on the protections needed to safeguard our industry.

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BACKGROUND: The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the national economy and \$2.6 billion annually to the NSW economy. It supports over 230,000 jobs throughout Australia. It is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world – alongside Newmarket in the UK and Kentucky in the USA. It is Australia's largest producer and exporter of premium thoroughbreds. It is an iconic part of Australia's sporting history and an industry worth protection.

