

- *If it is proven that coal dust has contaminated the water tanks in the Stratford area we urge you to request that Stratford Coal must pay for the cleaning or replacing of the water tanks, roofs, gutters and downpipes.*
- *We also urge you to require Stratford Coal to supply all households with water diverters, calcium carbonate floats & water filters.*
- *We also urge you to require Stratford Coal to pay a substantial amount of compensation to these families for the inconvenience of having their household water supply contaminated.*
- *We request that all unwashed railed coal transported to the Stratford mine must be covered.*

#### **Blasting, Dust & Air Pollution**

Stratford Coal have admitted that due to an increase in the amount of product coal transported via rail from 2.3 Mtpa to 3.3 Mtpa that there will be an increase in dust emissions from trains on the North Coast Railway line. Any increase in dust emissions is completely unacceptable to the health & safety of the community and affected residence along the railway line.

During blasting no employee is allowed into the blasting area for about 20 mins until toxic gases float off across the landscape. These toxic residual gasses from blasting cause orange/yellow plumes. The winds waft and swirl these toxic gasses outside the mining lease fence line for some distance, combined with the usual dust associated with mining activities, this puts the communities health at great risk.

Stratford Coal is only required to monitor dust particles to a PM10 (*particulate matter*). This is much too high, to monitor the fine particles associated with mining. These fine particles are more dangerous to our health, as they pass through the nose and lungs potentially causing cancers, asthma or respiratory diseases. The community has the right to have the best monitoring equipment available to ensure the health & safety of our families.

- *PM10 measurements have become meaningless and PM2.5 is now understood to be the critical measure for harmful health effects. In 2006 the NEPM national guidelines went some way to correcting this dangerous state of affairs by giving an advisory level for PM2.5 Gloucester Coal have chosen to ignore this advice and have not purchased modern monitoring equipment and have continued to use the mandatory PM10 monitoring equipment.*
- *It is completely unsatisfactory that Stratford Coal is knowingly affecting the health and welfare of the community with their increased dust emissions.*
- *The government has a Duty of Care to the health & safety of the community and I demand that you require Stratford Coal to monitor particulate matter at PM 2.5 and anything higher is completely unacceptable.*
- *We urge the Government to enforce that dust monitors must be replaced immediately with PM2.5 monitors that continually monitor and include the facility to store a sample of dust on tape.*

#### **Duralie Potentially Acid Forming Reject Material**

I also strongly object to more Duralie Reject material being stored at the Stratford Coal Mine.

- *The Roseville West Pit rejects combined with the increased rejects from the Bowens Road North Open Cut modification and the Duralie Extension Project, makes an awful lot of rejects to be stored at the Stratford Coal Mine, especially when Stratford Coal have already experienced problems storing the Duralie highly toxic reject material.*
- *In the Stratford Community Consultative Committee Minutes going back as far as 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the committee has regularly had concerns and often questioned the inadequate handling of the Duralie Potentially Acid Forming reject material for extended periods.*
- *How can the additional reject material and the increase in water from the CHPP be contained in the Stratford main pit when its water storage capacity has been reduced due to the reject material?*
- *The Duralie reject material is highly toxic and is a great threat to the Environment.*

Yours Sincerely



Robin Besier  
7 Forbesdale Close  
Forbesdale NSW 2422

Major Development Assessment  
 Department of Planning  
 GPO Box 39  
 Sydney  
 NSW 2001

10<sup>th</sup> September 2010

**Re: Objection to Bowens Road North Modification  
 Application Number DA39-02-01 MOD4**

To the Director General/Minister for Planning

I Roderick Besier strongly object to the continued modifications of the Stratford Coal Mine and the additional longer coal trains from the Duralie Coal Mine for 19 hours per day. I believe the community should not be subject to the additional impacts from noise, dust, trains & blasting associated with mining and urge you to reject this modification.

**Roseville West Pit & Stratford Main Pit**

The Roseville West Pit will be increased in depth to access an additional 1.4mtpa of ROM coal and remove an additional 8 million bank cubic metres of waste rock and then backfilling the Roseville West Pit & Stratford Main Pit with the additional waste rock.

- *This will cause additional emissions from noise, dust & blasting, continually endangering the health & safety of the community.*

**Duralie Coal Trains**

There will be an increase from 1.8Mtpa to 3Mtpa in the amount of coal received via rail from the Duralie mine. The number of engines will also increase from 4 to 5 in year 2 & the number of trains & length from 560m to 600 m long as well as extending the train unloading times from 7.00am until 2.00am (19 hour per day) current rail times are now from 7.00am to 10.00pm. (Stratford EA 3.3.1)

- *The additional hours will be a further intrusion on the people's rural lifestyle by the increased and continued disturbance of their sleep adversely affecting their health & wellbeing.*
- *This high sulphur coal is continually railed past rural/residential properties and through villages without being covered, causing an increase in coal dust emissions.*
- *If this modification is approved we urge the Government to reject the additional coal train hours and insist that all coal train wagons must be covered to help provide protection from the high sulphur coal dust to ensure the safety of the community.*

**Noise**

It is completely unacceptable that there should be any increase in the noise levels from the Stratford mine when they are already affecting many of the local residents with 85% of Stratford's complaints are noise related. Any expansion will further affect the communities' rural lifestyle and health.

- *Low frequency noise must also be monitored inside & outside and results made available to the public.*
- *We urge you to require Stratford Coal to supply sound insulation, double-glazing, HEPA air filters & air conditioners to the affected residents.*
- *If approval is granted we urge you to insist that Stratford Coal pay a substantial amount of compensation to any person affected by noise, for the discomfort & disruption to their lifestyle.*

**Water Tanks**

Everyone in the vicinity of the Stratford Coalmine and the uncovered coal wagons being railed from Duralie rely on good quality tank water for their household & drinking water supply. There is evidence that many tanks in the Stratford area are already contaminated.

- *We request that Stratford Coal pay for the testing of water tanks including all heavy metals on a regular basis, for anyone in the vicinity of the Stratford Coalmine and living in the vicinity of the railway line carrying unwashed high sulphur coal from Duralie.*

- *If it is proven that coal dust has contaminated the water tanks in the Stratford area we urge you to request that Stratford Coal must pay for the cleaning or replacing of the water tanks, roofs, gutters and downpipes.*
- *We also urge you to require Stratford Coal to supply all households with water diverters, calcium carbonate floats & water filters.*
- *We also urge you to require Stratford Coal to pay a substantial amount of compensation to these families for the inconvenience of having their household water supply contaminated.*
- *We request that all unwashed railed coal transported to the Stratford mine must be covered.*

#### **Blasting, Dust & Air Pollution**

Stratford Coal have admitted that due to an increase in the amount of product coal transported via rail from 2.3 Mtpa to 3.3 Mtpa that there will be an increase in dust emissions from trains on the North Coast Railway line. Any increase in dust emissions is completely unacceptable to the health & safety of the community and affected residence along the railway line.

During blasting no employee is allowed into the blasting area for about 20 mins until toxic gases float off across the landscape. These toxic residual gasses from blasting cause orange/yellow plumes. The winds waft and swirl these toxic gasses outside the mining lease fence line for some distance, combined with the usual dust associated with mining activities, this puts the communities health at great risk.

Stratford Coal is only required to monitor dust particles to a PM10 (*particulate matter*). This is much too high, to monitor the fine particles associated with mining. These fine particles are more dangerous to our health, as they pass through the nose and lungs potentially causing cancers, asthma or respiratory diseases. The community has the right to have the best monitoring equipment available to ensure the health & safety of our families.

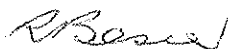
- *PM10 measurements have become meaningless and PM2.5 is now understood to be the critical measure for harmful health effects. In 2006 the NEPM national guidelines went some way to correcting this dangerous state of affairs by giving an advisory level for PM2.5 Gloucester Coal have chosen to ignore this advice and have not purchased modern monitoring equipment and have continued to use the mandatory PM10 monitoring equipment.*
- *It is completely unsatisfactory that Stratford Coal is knowingly affecting the health and welfare of the community with their increased dust emissions.*
- *The government has a Duty of Care to the health & safety of the community and I demand that you require Stratford Coal to monitor particulate matter at PM 2.5 and anything higher is completely unacceptable.*
- *We urge the Government to enforce that dust monitors must be replaced immediately with PM2.5 monitors that continually monitor and include the facility to store a sample of dust on tape.*

#### **Duralie Potentially Acid Forming Reject Material**

I also strongly object to more Duralie Reject material being stored at the Stratford Coal Mine.

- *The Roseville West Pit rejects combined with the increased rejects from the Bowens Road North Open Cut modification and the Duralie Extension Project, makes an awful lot of rejects to be stored at the Stratford Coal Mine, especially when Stratford Coal have already experienced problems storing the Duralie highly toxic reject material.*
- *In the Stratford Community Consultative Committee Minutes going back as far as 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006, the committee has regularly had concerns and often questioned the inadequate handling of the Duralie Potentially Acid Forming reject material for extended periods.*
- *How can the additional reject material and the increase in water from the CHPP be contained in the Stratford main pit when its water storage capacity has been reduced due to the reject material?*
- *The Duralie reject material is highly toxic and is a great threat to the Environment.*

Yours Sincerely



Roderick Besier  
7 Forbesdale Close  
Forbesdale NSW 2422

Individual (17)

27 Woods Road  
Craven. NSW. 2422  
6558 8238  
17<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Major Development Assessment  
Department of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

**Re: Objection to Stratford Coal Mine Modification  
4 DA 23-98/99 MOD 4**

To the Director General/Minister for Planning

As a resident of Craven for 15 years, I firmly object to the continued modifications of the Stratford Coal Mine and the additional longer coal trains from the Duralie Coal Mine for 19 hours per day. I believe this community should not be subject to the additional impacts from the noise; dust, trains and blasting associated with mining and urge you to reject this modification.

Roseville West Pit & Stratford Main Pit

The Roseville West Pit will be increased in depth to access an additional 1.4mtpa of ROM coal and remove an additional 8 million bank cubic metres of waste rock and then backfilling the Roseville West Pit and Stratford Main Pit with the additional waste rock.

This will cause additional emissions from the noise, dust and blasting, continually endangering the health and safety of the community.

Duralie Coal Trains

There will be an increase from 1.8Mtpa to Mtpa in the amount of coal received via rail from the Duralie mine. The number of engines will also increase from 4 to 5 in year 2 and the number of trains and length from 560m to 600m long as well as extending the train unloading times from 7am until 2am (19 hours per day). Current rail times are 7am to 10pm (15 hours per day).

This increase is totally unacceptable to me. I currently work full-time for a contractor to maintain power lines for Country Energy. My work requires driving, operating heavy and/or dangerous equipment such as tractors and chainsaws, and use of various chemicals. I go to bed at 9pm and get up at 4.30am. My house is 300 yards from the Craven Rail crossing, and the increase in rail activity will affect and result in sleep deprivation. I do not want my performance at work to be compromised and become a danger to my co-workers and myself. The increase in activity will also disturb the sleep of my grandchildren and other guests when they are staying overnight, which would diminish their enjoyment of being at my home. The additional hours will be a further intrusion on our lifestyle by the increased and continued disturbance of sleep adversely affecting health and wellbeing.

High sulphur coal is continually railed past rural/residential properties and villages without being covered, causing an increase in coal dust emissions.

If this modification is approved, I urge the Government to reject the additional coal

train hours and insist that all train wagons be covered to provide protection from the high sulphur coal dust for the safety of the community.

### Noise

It is totally unacceptable that there be any increase in the noise levels from the Stratford mine when already 85% of Craven and Stratford complaints are noise related. Any expansion will further affect our communities' lifestyle and health. My house is weatherboard, has no insulation and no double-glazing on the windows. I myself experience problems with noise from the railway line and the Stratford Coal Mine on a daily basis, where I have to adjust the volume when watching television, and interrupted conversations on the telephone and when guests are present. Many councils have restrictions on the use of pool pumps, air conditioners and lawn mowers between certain times to limit noise pollution for the members of their communities, why is this any different?

Low frequency noise must be monitored inside and outside and results.

I urge you to require Stratford Coal to supply sound insulation, double-glazing, and HEPA air filters to affected residents.

I urge you to require that Stratford Coal financially compensate residents affected for the discomfort and disruption to their lifestyle.

### Water Quality

Everyone in the vicinity of the Stratford Coal Mine and the uncovered coal wagons being railed from Duralie rely on tank water for their household and drinking water supply. Our livestock and wildlife depend on the water accumulating in dams. There is evidence that many tanks in the Stratford areas are already contaminated, and many Craven residents including myself believe their water quality is highly questionable. Are we slowly, but surely poisoning ourselves, and every other living animal and plant? We daily ask ourselves this question, and pray we are not.

I request that Stratford Coal pay for the independent testing of water tanks and dams on a regular basis for everyone living in the vicinity of the Stratford Coalmine and the railway line carrying unwashed high sulphur coal from Duralie.

If it is proven that coal dust has contaminated the water supplies, I urge you to require that Stratford Coal must pay for the cleaning or replacing of tanks, gutters, downpipes and dams, and replenish the contaminated water.

I urge you to require that Stratford Coal supply all households and properties with water filters, water diverters, and calcium carbonate floats.

I urge you to require Stratford Coal to pay substantial compensation to residents for the distress of their water supplies being contaminated.

I request that the transportation all unwashed railed coal be covered.

### Blasting, Dust & Air Pollution

Stratford Coal have admitted that due to an increase in the amount of product coal transported via rail from 2.3Mtpa 3.3Mtpa that there will be an increase in dust emissions from trains on the North Coast Railway line. Any increase in dust emissions is completely unacceptable to the health and safety of our community.

During blasting no employee is allowed into the blasting area for about 20 minutes until any toxic gasses have floated across from the area. These toxic residual gasses from blasting cause orange/yellow plumes. The winds waft and swirl these toxic gasses outside the mining lease fence line for some distance. Combined with the usual

dust associated with mining activities, this puts the communities health at great risk. Stratford coal is only required to monitor dust particles to a PM10. This is far too high to monitor the fine particles associated with mining, the fine particles potentially causing cancers and respiratory diseases. The "clean, clear country air" is extinct in this community. I suffered with sinus and respiratory problems for many years in my previous employment due to my employer's lack of Duty Of Care, and I am still affected with these issues now. I find it totally unacceptable that this communities' health be further jeopardised.

Your Government has a Duty Of Care to the health and safety of the community and I demand that you require Stratford Coal to monitor particulate matter at PM 2.5 and anything else is unacceptable.

Duralie Potentially Acid Forming Reject Material

I also strongly object to more Duralie Reject material being stored at the Stratford Coal Mine. This reject material is highly toxic and is a substantial threat to our environment.

I purchased my home here at Craven to enjoy a quiet, relaxed rural lifestyle for my family and myself. This original concept has certainly changed over the past 15 years due to the expansion and impact of Stratford Coal, and in my opinion it has been to the detriment of the community. Enough is enough; reject the Stratford Coal Mine Modification.

Yours Sincerely,

Roger Malcolm Boorer.

