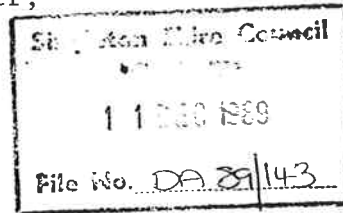


"NUNDAH".

Middle Falbrook road,
Glennies Creek, NSW. 2330.
5th. December, 1989.

The Shire Clerk/General Manager,
Singleton Shire Council,
Queen Street,
SINGLETON. NSW. 2330.



Dear Sir,

In response to your letter of the 9th. ultimo, with reference to Camberwell Coal Company's application to develop an open cut coal mine at Middle Falbrook, Glennies Creek; I hereby wish to submit a formal "submission of objection", to the development application.

My grounds for objection are many and varied, and will be vigorously and aggressively countenanced by me on the public forum pursuant to this objection, ie, my democratic right to Commission of Inquiry; however, in accordance with the requirements of a "submission of objection" I will reflect and outline my basic reasoning below for your endorsement.

(1). My property is situated within the Rix's Creek Commission of Inquiry rhetoric, "zone of affectation", apropos Camberwell Coal Company. I have two houses on my property, one .5km. from the proposed south pit, the other .5km. from the proposed north pit. In essence these two facts alone make the occupational tenure, of both residences, rather tentative and transient from a social and environmental point of view.

(2). I totally object to Camberwell Coal Ltd. submitting a Development Application to Council one day, and releasing the Environmental Impact Statement virtually at the same time. Whilst legal, ethically and morally questionable. This 'maneuver' obturates and negates a reasonable time lapse, which in my estimation should be a pre-requisite (time lapse), to enable interested parties sufficient time to study, have engineering, environmental, hydrological, geological, etc. etc. assessments carried out, and generally rationalize the impact this proposed development will have on ones way of life and life style generally. This epitomizes Southland Coal Company's naive attitude of the past ten years, a 'shoes string' company with little direction or drive one day, cometh the Japanese funds and a 'rip, tear, bust', mentality prevails with perplexing and devastating results.

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(3). I own and operate a Charolais cattle stud on my property, and as such use the water supply from Station Creek exclusively for the watering of my stock. This stream is vital to my operation. Whilst not permanently running by nature, storms and to a lesser extent general rain refurbish the large water holes at least 3 or 4 times per year on average, giving me permanent stock water throughout the length of my property all year round.

Camberwell Coal plan to interfere and meddle with the catchment area of Station Creek, with the north pit actually perambulating the flow area. I object to this interference!. I object to the damming of Station Creek!. I object to the position of the north pit!. I object to the potential and probable polluting of Station Creek by a storm orientated flush that will ultimately and invariably transpire. (and will not be a 1 in 100 year event as some computer, in some city office block would have us believe. Nature dictates, man and computers follow.). As a result of Camberwell Coal Company's intervention my stock water will be totally unreliable, and any down stream flow I might receive will be polluted by the environmentally unsound bi-products this open cut will surely generate.

Station Creek provides beneficial annual flooding over part of my northern irrigation paddock. The nature of the paddock is such, that when nature takes a hand, and to use the vernacular, "a Hunter valley gully raker" spawns into life on the eastern side of the designated north pit, my paddock will be inundated with clay, mud stone and coal dust slurry etc., all of which will virtually render the paddock useless as a cropping proposition, and impair my viability. To this I object most strongly!.

Experience has shown that once you attempt to alter nature's way of contrivance you invite disaster. Thus, I have a well that is situated some 150 M. from the western side of Station Creek. On that well is a windmill used for the supply of domestic water in dry times. Once Camberwell Coal start interfering with the aquifers in the sub-terranean stream source, my 'back-up' domestic water supply could disappear. God alone gives guarantees, not, contrary to Company belief, Camberwell Coal.

(4). Because of the close proximity of my two houses to these proposed open cuts, the dust generation problem will be real, and adversely significant in assessing my future life style, which, to my way of thinking will become an environmental, health and safety disaster zone.

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The prevailing winds are such that a southerly wind will totally engulf my primary residence with dust from the south cut. A north easterly wind will blow all air borne pollutants directly into the front door of the cottage known in Camberwell Coal Company parlance as "Hillview". The dust levels to which I will be subjected have not been satisfactorily defined in the Environmental Impact Statement, and only broad parameters in isonephic form have been incorporated, leaving a potential environmental 'night mare' for me and my family to endure. The air quality will deteriorate to such an extent as to make healthy living, where I live, impossible.

I submit Sir, this is not good enough, and feel is sufficient grounds alone, to have a moratorium placed on the project in it's entirety, or until such times as the joint ventures show some resolve in reconciling the fears of the adversely effected Glennies Creek residents pursuant to meaningful negotiations in respect of disruption and dislocation to their life styles.

(5). The noise levels experienced at both my residences cumulative, ie. blasting, mobile machinery, coal preparation plant, loading facility, production equipment, etc. by the Environmental Impact Statements own admission, far and away exceed the accepted levels for rural residential land. The advent of back-up horns on mobile machinery at night in particular, would seriously impair our tranquil modus vivendi. Blasting in both the north and south pits will effectively cause serious structural damage to both residences, and the probable disintegration of my inground concrete swimming pool. Vibration and air blast pressure from blasting within such close proximity to the open cut as my dwellings are, is by nature an extreme worry, and could only be described as deleterious to ones being. To the overall adverse acoustical imposition of this mining venture, upon me and my family, I object.

(6). My property consists of 320 acres with an aesthetically pleasing outlook from either residence. Once these open cuts come on line my panorama will be devastated, from rolling hills and cultivated farms to spoil heaps and industrial degradation. A far cry from what we as a family conceived and planned as a future retirement abode. To sight pollution and the associated visual problems, I object.

(7). The Camberwell Coal Project's south pit will blindly and effectively eliminate Middle Falbrook road. There is no rational evidence to indicate the Company's intentions with respect

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to services for those residents who habitually and regularly use the road. Socially, where will school children catch the school bus each day ?. Does it mean a car trip twice a day to a pick up point ?. What will happen to the daily mail service ?. Does it mean all persons north of the south pit will have to pay for a postal box, and pick their mail up in 'town' ?. One of the advantages of living where I do , is the fact that I can be in 'town' in ten minutes. Why should I be forced to go on a grand tour, to who knows where, just to facilitate the Camberwell Coal Project's being.

(8). I look upon my security as a nurtured right. I live out of town, I built my home in a security orientated position on my property, I am .9km. from the front gate and hence the roadway, I have a lock on the front gate should it be required. All of these fundamental factors add up to nothing with the onset of this proposed development, especially the south pit. There would be an expectation of firstly, in the establishment stage, itinerant workers of unknown numbers drifting round the immediate precincts of my property. At a later date there will be an ever increasing work force, all within 500 M. of my two residences. As I have a wife and five girls, and the fact that I work permanent afternoon shift, causes me to ponder the perceived security problems generated by this venture. My melancholy dilemma is the realization of a potential break down in the secure tenure my property, and I, now enjoy, and which will be totally lost if this Development Application is approved. At risk is my family, my farm machinery and plant and valuable stock. Who is going to be accountable for that "left open gate", resulting in stock loss ?. Not some Jap funded, multi-national conglomerate who has scant regard, thought of compassion for some little farmer who just happens to complain about their agent's negligence. Probably, as happened during the exploration stage a letter of apology and or explanation. Great P.R. but of little comfort knowing the next day dawns a new hazard. The thought of leaving my female family home at night with a projected and declared work force of 299 (one would assume mostly males), within 500 M. of my home causes untold anxiety and apprehension. This is just another reason why I must object most strongly to the Development Application.

(9). The stress imposed on the Glennies Creek residents by this Company, as a result of them moving to development stage, has to be experienced to be appreciated. It is factual, there

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is one potential divorce, one medically treated stomach ulcer, two medically treated nervous conditions, one insomniac, children crying - "here is the man from the mines again", and an old couple who just want to be left alone. All these socio-cultural complaints are purely due to the uncertainty of the situation. Once again an imposition by this mining company of sufficient cause to warrant my objection.

(10). The Camberwell Coal Project's Environmental Impact Statement is in my estimation a collection of outdated, outmoded, computer conceived and perceived half facts, technical jargon and here-say. It's contradictory, it's fallacious, irrational, and in places factually barren. It's objectivity leaves a lot to be desired by way of a document supposedly purporting to inform, instruct and assist those with a vested interest in the outcome of the proposed development of an open cut coal mine. In precis, it fulfills the statutory requirements, but does very little to alleviate the social and environmental trepidations of those of us unfortunate enough to be adversely involved. Quoted doctrine is great in theory, but history and experience has proved time and again that the practicalities of a situation do not necessarily follow the script, and I am sure this mining venture will categorize along similar lines, and that which is proposed will not necessarily eventuate, with the outcome being a catastrophe for any contiguous land owners.

(11). Camberwell Coal Company have shown little regard for the socially effected residents in respect to land acquisition. Sure they have purchased some property, most being of strategic need, and to used as a thinly veiled defence to any possible media probe. They have left the environmental sensitive occupants in a state of bewilderment.

The Company spend untold millions of dollars on plant, equipment, infrastructure and on site facilities, all liabilities and diminishing assetts, however, when it comes to harmoniously dealing with people whose property is adversely effected, they (the company) show an unexplainable reticence to pay a fair and honorable purchase price for the land. Country so acquired is and always will be a tangible assett, and unlike the previously mentioned plant etc. will appreciate in value and ultimately give rise to a large pastoral holding, which at the end of year 20 could be realized, or accordingly conducted as a business venture.

I feel in eluding to these facts I highlight an ineptitude on the Company's part, and therefore am obliged to object to their policy on acquisition.

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(12). Reference is drawn to the Rix's Creek Commission of Inquiry decision relating to the environmental safeguards and constraints imposed on that mining company's operation by the Honorable Minister, for the protection of adversely effected Singleton Heights residents in close proximity to the Bloomfield mine site. Residents referred to in that instance are some 1.5 to 2 km. distance from the actual sphere of operations. As previously pointed out both my residences are only .5 km. from the Camberwell Coal Company's proposed open cuts, and I will therefore be seeking similar safeguards and constraints as afforded the Singleton Heights people, but of a more stringent nature, due to the closer "zone of affectation", and a perceived estimation of two thirds greater environmental impact on my life style.

In summary Sir, whilst we the residents at Glennies Creek are not wealthy joint ventures, have very little political 'clout', have no prospects of employing 299 people, will ever have any significant influence on the National debt, we still live in (I hope) a democratic society and adhere to a way of life that affords us all the inherent right of objection to that which we consider is an injustice, an invasion of our emotional state, and or an attack on our civil liberties. We live and work in an area for many years, suddenly along comes a mining company who want to dislocate our way of life and render our peace and quiet untenable. They expect us to be passive passengers on their environmental train of debasement, adhere to their testament, subscribe to their doctrine and generally be subservient to their impositions. "Might is not always right!".

I do not want to prevent the Camberwell Coal Company's mines inception, and being a realist know full well that is not possible anyhow, but what I do want is a fair and equitable reference made to my right to exist in an environment of my choice.

I work in an open cut coal mine, I do not want to live in one.

Yours faithfully,


BRUCE WILMOTT.