

## Phil Jones - HVO South Project Approval Modifications 1 to 5 Application 06-0261

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Re HVO South Project Approval Modifications 1 to 5  
 Applications 06 - 0261 MOD 1 to 5

We all need to be reminded that in the 1820's Homesteads in the Hunter Valley were built close to a reliable water supply. Why then has this Archerfield Homestead Complex water supply been kept secret and ignored for so long; and ignored in all the Environmental Assessments and Offset evaluations over the years at least back to 2002.

The secret is the Geology of the Archerfield Hill some hundred odd metres above the Hunter River and the Alluvial River Flats below.

As I understand it (in the limited time we have to comment) the Hill is an ancient Sand deposit that sits upon a solid Sandstone Basin filled with fresh water that not only provides "Well Water" close to the Hill surface but plays its part in the flourishing Homestead varieties of old trees of overseas origin that are testament to the Colonial significance of this Site.

As you may now realise and appreciate the Secret Water Story now becomes an impediment to both of the HVO South Offset Proposal as well as the Warkworth Archerfield Offset Plans. Now the Colonial and the European Heritage significance also comes into play as this Secret Water Well is in use today as it has been since the early 1820's. It would be expected that the life blood of the Archerfield Homestead Complex would be at Risk by concentrated reforestation of otherwise farm grazing land planned as the Warkworth Archerfield Offset Proposal.

The Colonial and European Heritage significance was outlined in my Warkworth Extension submission application 09-0202 dated 12 June 2010, where details are provided including Colonial Map 2 -entitled Hunter River District 1822 to 1825 of Colonial settlement land parcels along the Hunter River.

Interestingly this detailing has apparently still been ignored by Planning, PAC, and Mining and in this submission the Archerfield Homestead Property is indicated in section "D" of MAP 2. Similarly, the community disgust regarding the Offset proposals are still relevant in this submission.

Interestingly, and perhaps just as applicable here is Henry Danger's description of the Hunter River land.

Similarly, many aspects of the 2002 Approved Warkworth preserved areas now approved in 2012 and now under Court Appeal are outlined in various of the hundred odd submission, and are invoked here to measure the Warkworth loss and Offset swap content. They also outline the extent of the concern at the integrity of the process.

It is interesting to note that "The Archerfield property was identified as having the highest Conservation significance (with a score of 17 from a possible 20) of all the eight areas assessed". Add to this the Colonial and European Heritage significance and mostly devoid of Aboriginal Heritage to date, then a rethink is warranted of the Offset Plans for the Archerfield Property.

Sincerely,

Dr Neville Hodkinson