

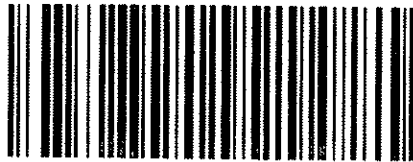
Mining and Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
28 OCT 2010
Scanning Room

Jane Ahlquist,
75 Rugby Road,
(PO Box 10)
MAJORS CREEK NSW 2622

25th October, 2010

Tel: 02 4846 1041
E: jane.ahlquist@bigpond.com



Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: Ref: 10_0054 - Dargues Reef Gold Project, Majors Creek, NSW.
Objections and Recommendations**

My name is Evelyn Jane Ahlquist. I have lived in Majors Creek for eight years. I own a solar-powered house on 2 acres of land, and I contribute to the life of the community as a theatre professional, mounting productions, teaching drama and contributing to children's events at the Creek. I have no family and, until recently, I intended to make Majors Creek my permanent home.

This letter is to register my **strongest possible objection** to the proposal to run a 24 hour per day industrial activity (Dargues Reef Mine) within one kilometre of a peaceful rural-residential village; and to register my outrage at the proposal's stated intentions to truck effluent from other mines across the district and process materials at Majors Creek in future years.

Below are statements of my core objections, with recommendations where relevant.

1. PROXIMITY

The proposed 24 hour mine brings significant industrial activity to the area, one kilometre from the village proper. As Majors Creek is a rural-residential area, this appears inappropriate at best.

2. A 24 HOUR MINE!

Given the proximity, a 24 hour mine must be considered out of the question. Mining activity involves blast pressure, drilling, dust (Spring is particularly windy here), odours and frequently reversing trucks - an ugly, high-pitch that cuts through at 2 kilometres.

When this commences, overnight Majors Creek will change into a zone of unpredictable disturbance - and with no respite. I consider this to be a form of psychological violence inviting collective stress and a sense of entrapment. Many small-town conversations inform me that people here are shocked by this.

However, the most frightening aspect of the 24 hour mine proposal is the part of the submission by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (known here as Cortona) which fields their intention to process material extracted from other mines in the region at Majors Creek! This reinvents Majors Creek as a 24 hour noisy dump for the rest of the lives of those presently living here and remakes Braidwood and the Majors Creek Road as a truck highway (See below **BRAIDWOOD**).

How would you feel? A little bullied, perhaps? A little violated?

Please note that, while some local residents will write to you about this aspect of the mine, some will not due to a feeling that money rules and it is useless (this from conversations at the Creek); and others cannot express themselves adequately.

3. WATER

I would like to register my **strong concern about the impact of the mine on the water available to the town and to surrounding users and the long-term impact of lowering the water table.**

The community has repeatedly asked Cortona Mines where they are getting their water from to process extracted material. Every answer leads in one direction: **there will be a drop in the water table.** Further, part of Cortona's plan includes the rain-filling of a number of dams to be built. It follows that, when there is another drought, the water table will be used even more extensively.

There are people in Majors Creek who rely upon water pumped from springs, from the Creek and from bore water. The Araluen Valley (next to Majors Creek and downstream) is a major stone-fruit growing district and requires bore water.

Cortona say they will "monitor" and "negotiate" with households. Well, one can't shower in monitoring or drink negotiation. There is no such thing as compensation for something irreplaceable

The water taken for this mine alone is twice the amount used by Braidwood. It is a **huge** amount of water. How *can* you take this much water and say it will have no effect? They are de-watering the area in the context of processing that may go on indefinitely.

In my opinion, the 24 hour mining operation combined with the devastation of our water constitute powerful and sufficient grounds to disallow this project.

The precedent you set here is vital, as **water is a matter of national significance.**

4. THE MAJORS CREEK MIST

No-where in any submission have I seen mention of the levels of mist that come and go at random in the Creek. Personally, I have three times been lost in the mist here, once in January late at night when I could not find my own house! No line marking can help this.

Now: I have taught five boys living here who will no doubt have P-plates when the mine is operating at its peak, and Majors Creek has a pub.

Think: a young man newly at drinking age and with a P-plate deciding to drive a short distance back home in the mist on a narrow road....

What we are looking at is a recipe for a fatality. Mining after dark must be disallowed.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2 & 4:

If the mine is approved:

- Mining is to be banned at night;
- A strong street light is to be placed where the trucks enter the Majors Creek Road;
- A slip lane is to be added to existing road-modification plans;
- The sound indicating a reversing truck is to be modified.

5. THE TAILINGS DAM

Given where the mine is, Cortona Mines must build their tailings dam high up above Majors Creek itself. They have carefully described safety features to the community and that it will have no cyanide and will be coarse crush.

The people of Mongarlowe (another satellite of Braidwood) have been informed that, due to previous mining activity, there is still cyanide at the bottom of their river but that the river will remain safe **as long as it is not disturbed**. Majors Creek is an historic gold-mining district from pre-regulation era.

Further, I have never heard of a tailings dam that did not contain **some** level of toxicity. Therefore, I regard it as more conducive to mind-concentration to envision **the consequences of one tailings dam event** in this area.

If we have a dam leak here, the tailings will enter Majors Creek, from where it will travel downstream and pollute the Deua system (national park), and pass through residential zones as far down as Moruya. It would be a disaster.

One event.

We know now that freak climate events, such as week-long high-wind downpours, are real and have to be considered "unknowns": and we know that human beings grow slack over time in their monitoring. We know that human error happens.

Majors Creek should not have a tailings dam above its waterways.

6. BRAIDWOOD

The majority of the employees of the Dargues Reef Gold Project will be housed in Braidwood, which is 16 kilometres north of Majors Creek, and will travel to the mine; and all of the mining trucks will pass through the town of Braidwood using its one wide street.

The street is already well used: it has only one pedestrian crossing in a town with two schools, plenty of activity and businesses on both sides of the road; and the road is wide enough to encourage frequent U-turns, which is and will remain standard practice.

Braidwood is a Heritage Listed town. Heritage listing is not only about buildings and history. It is about maintaining ambience and the cultural and tourist activities that are the opportunities associated with the listing. What is less commonly known about Braidwood is that it also has a very large number of tertiary qualified individuals per head of population. (It is said more than any other place in Australia, although I do not have the statistics on this.)

Do you really think that an educated populace in the context of a heritage listed town will stand by while their home deteriorates into a truck transit route for mining effluent from across the whole area? The association with mining will be perceived as a marriage made in hell. Anger will rise, an independent candidate will be fielded and votes with change.

The Labor State Government is already on the nose. Eden-Monaro is a Federal "bell-weather" seat. This mine will have unintended political consequences.

Do not underestimate Braidwood.

7. A LOSS OF INTANGIBLES

Ever so gradually, we have come into an age where the faculty which distinguishes quality has atrophied through want of use. These days, it is all about quantity and measurement: how many jobs, not how the jobs will enhance the quality of community life; and how much profit, not at what cost to the intangibles. We have lost the vital ability to imagine and we protest only when the damage is done:

What do we stand for? If I was an elderly lady who had been living here 50 years and whose husband's ashes lay buried on my land - well, according to the environmental lawyer's office (meeting with community, Majors Creek Hall, 15th May 2010), the law states that a mine could still operate within 50 metres of my garden.

Perhaps this is why we don't like dictatorships. We are a dictatorship by capital.

Beginning with the sale of the black box flight recorder in the '50s, Australia has a history of on-selling its best inventions and ghosting its best minds. We rarely market our intellectual capital ourselves, choosing instead to become, to quote the great Australian poet Judith Wright "a quarry surrounded by an oil slick". What happens when the resources run out?

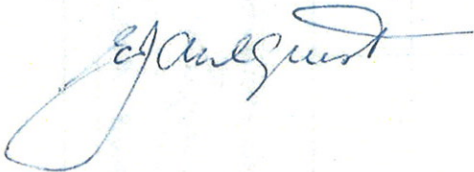
We have become so habituated to the easy-option of digging up anywhere and regardless of story, that we barely notice the de-humanizing of the culture that accompanies it, let alone find language to express it. We are too busy turning beauty into vulgarity.

What is atmosphere of place? How do we place a value on it? How can you measure stillness and birdcall, the contrasting seasons, the web of relationships? The connection to land. Stories.

Majors Creek is beautiful. I submit that the violation of these "other values" must go into the mix with the protests about water, noise pollution and traffic, which are regulatory matters.

I have attached my political donations form as required and respectfully look forward to your consideration of these objections.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E.J. Ahlquist', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

E.J. AHLQUIST

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure EVELYN JANE AHLQUIST		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) REF: 10-0054- Dargues Reef Gold Mining Project		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO				
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons * State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
EVELYN JANE AHLQUIST ABN: 50 546 780 948	75 RUGBY ROAD MAJORS CREEK NSW 2622	NO REPORTABLE DONATIONS MADE	N/A	N/A
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date [Signature] 25/10/10		Name(s) EVELYN JANE AHLQUIST		

David Anthony
Currajuggle Creek
Braidwood, NSW, 2622
danthona@gmail.com

November 1 2010

Environmental Planning Officer
Regional Projects
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001
plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

To whom it may concern

Re: Dargues Reef Gold Project, Major Project No 10_0054

I would like to strongly object to the above Dargues Reef proposal as submitted. It constitutes an unsustainable overdevelopment and fails to meet commonly accepted standards for ESD especially regarding the precautionary principle. The proponent has not adequately reduced the significant uncertainties surrounding this projects potential environmental and social risk. Critical issues are groundwater modelling and management, water capture, quality and environmental flows as well as the amenity impacts of noise and dust.

Environmentally Sustainable Development and the Precautionary Principle

The precautionary principle provides that **“where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation”**.

In New South Wales the precautionary principle can be found in over 55 different State statutes or regulations (Biscoe J in *Walker v Minister for Planning* (2007) 157 LGERA 124 at [69]).

Many of the specialist investigations contained in the environmental assessment (EA) for this proposal, especially the groundwater modelling which is underpinned by highly subjective assumptions and is used to construct the groundwater draw down gradients, cannot claim as the proponent does in the assessment, to contain a high degree of certainty. This high degree of uncertainty could be easily remedied by undertaking the various analyses with real data based inputs into statistically robust time series as opposed to uncertain modelled data contained in the assessment.

- The high dependence on theoretical modelling by some of the specialist investigations would in my opinion be most likely to fail the various Precautionary Principle criteria concerning uncertainty as outlined by the NSW Land and Environment Court (NSWLEC).
- There is a high possibility that this development will cause more than negligible damage to the environment, agricultural systems, water supplies and local resident amenity.

Some relevant cases and principles in this respect include:

The Hon Justice Brian J Preston, Chief Judge of The Land and Environment Court of NSW has outlined some cases and principles concerning water and ecologically sustainable development that are directly applicable to the Cortona Proposal

This development will impact on water resources or water dependent biota or ecological communities when carried out in proximity to such sources of water.

Gerroa Environment Protection Society Inc v Minister for Planning and Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd, [2008] NSWLEC 173) the extension of a sand mine could potentially have impacted on groundwater and groundwater dependent ecological communities and, in particular, on a swamp sclerophyll forest, a type of endangered ecological community dependent on ground and surface waters. After a hearing involving considerable hydrological and ecological expert evidence, the NSWLEC determined to grant development consent to the extension but imposed strict conditions requiring the collection of base data, ongoing monitoring and adaptive management to mitigate any potential adverse impacts. Significant biodiversity offsets were required to compensate for the loss of biodiversity caused by the extension. *Gerroa Environment Protection Society Inc v Minister for Planning and Cleary Bros (Bombo) Pty Ltd* [2008] NSWLEC 173 (primary judgment) and [2008] NSWLEC 254

Pollution Risk

There is a stated intention of the proponent to use polluted old mine water for environmental flows. Under the polluter pays principle as outlined by the NSW LEC, the polluter should pay for the costs of:

- preventing pollution or reducing pollution to comply with applicable standards and laws;
- preventing, controlling, abating and mitigating damage to the environment caused by pollution; and
- making good any resultant environmental damage, such as cleaning up pollution and restoring the environment damaged and making reparation (including compensatory damages and compensatory restoration) for irremediable injury.

Use of the Precautionary principle where there exists uncertainty in water resources and use

Where there is uncertainty concerning the supply of and demand for water resources, a precautionary approach is prudent in determining future water use. This may involve approving water use on conditions requiring monitoring of water supply and demand and **adaptive management**. **There is no discussion of adaptive management in the proponents' environmental assessment – Many of the most critical issues such as noise and water could be easily ameliorated by scaling back production to a sustainable rate including restrictions on night time noise generation. The rate and scale of production should be determined by the amount of Harvestable Right water available (including provisions for environmental flows because of groundwater gradient reversal resulting from mine dewatering). In calculating the adequacy of this supply, due consideration should also be given to the possible impacts of climate change. Any higher rate of production (and thus unsustainable use of water) would be inconsistent with Ecological Sustainable Development criteria as required under law.**

In *Ulan Coal Mines Ltd v Minister for Planning*, a neighboring coal mine challenged, by way of judicial review, the Minister for Planning's approval of a new coal mine on grounds including that a condition of the approval, requiring that the new mine must have sufficient water for all stages of the project, was uncertain and manifestly unreasonable. The NSWLEC rejected the challenge, holding that the Minister had adopted a precautionary approach by requiring monitoring of the water supply and use of an adaptive management approach, notably by requiring an adjustment of the scale of mining operations (and hence the demand for water) to match the available water supply. Such an adaptive management response was considered appropriate to dealing with any uncertainty arising from potential impacts. The Court adopted a precautionary approach, recognizing **the uncertainty in the data as well as considering the impacts of climate change on future water resources**. [2008] NSWLEC 1385.

The Court held that the condition was imposed in accordance with the precautionary principle and was a proper response to deal with uncertainty as to potential impacts [2009] NSWLEC 213 at [131].

Other States have also made applicable judgments concerning the use of the precautionary principle

In a case similar to the Cortona proposal where a South Australian project was going to use considerable volumes of groundwater and expose the catchment to a significant risk of overuse and consequential harm. The SASC noted that the evidence of certain experts, whilst insufficient to support a conclusion of unsustainable water use, was sufficient to support a conclusion of significant risk of serious harm due to water overuse, coupled with current scientific uncertainty about the extent of environmental harm, thereby attracting the precautionary principle. [2007] SASC 189. See also earlier litigation in *Rowe v Linder* (2006) 146 LGERA 100.

Preventative Approach where Water Use is Unsustainable

Where a proposed development will unsustainably use water resources, a preventative approach is appropriate and development consent may properly be refused. In *Mercer v Moorabool Shire Council*, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal refused a permit to enlarge two dams which would reduce flows into a nearby creek. Evidence showed that the catchment was already overcommitted and that the ecology of watercourses in the area was being seriously adversely affected. The unsustainable water extraction regime contained in this proposal will **adversely affect the already embargoed Moruya/Araluen/Deua aquifer/catchment**.

Specific Issues of Concern

It would be greatly appreciated and indeed prudent that the proponent provide adequate responses to the following issues of concern.

Waste Rock Management

- How can 445,675m of the total 510,375m of waste rock generated through the whole life of the project be used for site establishment when it has not yet been generated?

Noise

- All the noise studies are based on modelled and assumed data not real data.

- The proposal will result in sleep disturbance (EA-4-35) under noise enhancing inversion conditions which are a common feature in the area. Processing and construction noise 24 hours a day for 5 years (or longer) is unacceptable for a rural residential area and village that experiences almost nil artificial noise at night time.
 - What are the noise generation characteristics of the hydraulic rock breaker to be used to process oversize ore?
 - What noise attenuation measures are proposed to reduce the residential amenity impacts of this operation?
 - Why is there no discussion of the acoustic treatment of dwellings that may be adversely affected by noise?
 - A difference of 5 dB may occur within a 180 degree range in relation to the wind direction at the same distance from the site.
 - The noise assessment of the noise attenuation effects of the interaction of the prevailing winds and natural topography have not adequately been dealt with. These effects are significant given the location of the mine and the sites topography. These effects can often reduce the effectiveness of sound barriers and increase noise levels by 10dBA.
 - Why haven't any of the following Best Practice Noise Management in Mining measures been discussed?
 - Reducing the maximum instantaneous charge (MIC).
 - Altering the blast drilling pattern and delay layout.
 - Using the minimum sub-drilling possible.
 - Using alternative rock breaking techniques.
 - Blasting at times that suit local conditions. (This is a critical action given the almost silent night time acoustic amenity of the locale).
 - Conduct blasts at a set time or use a pre-warning system.
 - Implementing an effective monitoring and community liaison program.
- This program should involve maintaining a continuous record of environmental and blast emissions. This data should be made available to the public in real time via the Internet. The program should also address the company's requirements for dealing with complaints and ensuring that quality objectives are met.

The benefits of best practice environmental management to minimise noise and blast impacts are immediate and include cost savings through increased efficiency and improved occupational health and safety. In addition to benefiting individual companies in the short-term, the mining sector will profit both economically, and in the improved community acceptance and attitudes towards mining activities.

Groundwater Issues

- Leakage from the Alluvial Aquifers i.e. "seepage from the alluvium to the mine or shafts where the groundwater flow gradient has been reversed... is embargoed water"(3-54 Report 752/05) The hydrological impact on Majors Creek due to mining related activities **constitutes an unlicensed extraction of embargoed water** . This leakage has been grossly understated and only superficially modelled and as more water will be required from the dewatering of old mine workings to supply for operational and environmental flows it is likely to increase.
- The cone of groundwater drawdown is currently estimated at 1m within 500m of the escarpment – where is the drawdown zero in relation to the escarpment?

- **Will the cone of drawdown and extent of depressurisation of the granodiorite and regolith aquifers extend to the Araluen escarpment and the town ship of Majors Creek if more operational and environmental flow water is required to be extracted from old mine workings?**
- If only 64,700m of waste rock, a small proportion of the estimated total of 510,375m that is expected to be generated by the project, is to be used for stope backfilling there will be a huge underground void that will have major impacts on groundwater behaviour in the area for many years after the mining operations have ceased. Can these impacts be fully explained and clarified and with what certainty?
- When do the drawdown impacts on Spring Creek finally recover after the five years post mining?
- Given that the groundwater modelling used contains “numerous qualitative and subjective interpretations” what degree of confidence can be had in the outputs generated by the model especially considering the high degree of uncertainty associated with the modelling and the potential implications and impacts of the modelled results?
- This radical uncertainty could easily be reduced through collection of real data this should be done in a way that produces a statistically robust time series of observations and the model recalibrated accordingly.
- No long term monitoring has been undertaken as a basis for the modelling contained in the EA. Only a one off steady state calibration was undertaken with the assumption that the water levels in the bores selected for steady state calibration were representative of the long term average (steady state) groundwater levels.

The particularly sensitive results in terms of modelled predictions relating to environmental impact include the:

- Modelled cone of groundwater draw down especially its distance from the Araluen escarpment;
- Draw down impacts and recovery rates for groundwater;
- The precise reversal of flow gradients from embargoed alluvium including the various scenarios of increased extraction of old mine water. This analysis will determine the adaptive environmental flow requirements of the project;

There is too much uncertainty about the modelling for it to be suitable for formulating the accurate risk assessments and parameters required to accurately assess the groundwater impacts associated with this development proposal.

A more fundamental consideration for regulatory authorities is the fact that proposal will result in an impact on the embargoed alluvial aquifer. An unlicensed impact at that.

Total water budget calculations

Can the proponent explain why two conflicting amounts have been used in regard to the annual quantity of water required? (EA 2.2.5 “the Project would require 870ML per year for mining related purposes” and in 752/04 2-46 “The maximum project related water requirement would be 215ML”.)

Though there is much discussion of water recycling (98ML per annum has been estimated as recoverable water and subtracted from the estimates of total water usage) there is no mention of where and how much start up/ original water would be required to initiate the recycling process or indeed where this water would come from. **Can this be clarified and explained?**

Environmental Flows

As it stands, the Environmental flow regime proposed in the EA to ameliorate the reverse gradient effects on the embargoed alluvial aquifer of Majors Creek would result in the serious pollution of Majors Creek and the Araluen, Deua and Moruya River Systems. Section 2, Description of Project (2-45) states that:

“The Proponent would ensure, **where practicable** that the water released conforms to water quality criteria.”

This statement reflects the fact that the harvestable right dams do not have the capacity to adequately supply environmental flow requirements and that polluted old mine water would have to be used (Harvestable Right 38ML stated environmental flows 66.2ML). The quality of the old mine water fails both the conservative ANZECC, 2000 water quality standard for aquatic ecosystems and the Moruya River Water Quality Objectives. Some of the allowable parameters for particular indicators are exceeded by more than 300%.

The Deua river system has been identified by the Commonwealth Government as a High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystem. The discharge of such polluted water into this system could potentially have devastating effects. **Why were these potentially disastrous impacts of this pollution not mentioned or discussed in the EA?**

Not only have the impacts of using polluted old mine water for environmental flows been totally ignored in the EA, but also the full magnitude of their use left open ended. The ability of the harvestable right dams to supply environmental flows is one of the critical determinants concerning how much polluted old mine water will be used for environmental flows. The capacity of these HR dams has been overestimated through selective and erroneous use of rainfall data as well as reliance on inherently uncertain theoretical modelling to calculate the actual amount of the reversed groundwater gradient compensatory environmental flows.

Distorted use rainfall data used as basis for calculation of the ability of harvestable right dams to supply environmental flows

The EA uses Braidwood Rainfall Data and states that in 1981 (**665mm**), the worst year in their 100 year record, that the harvestable right dams would run dry for 182 days (SEEC 4-25). Since 2002 the rainfall data they have ignored included six years out of seven where the rainfall was equal to or considerably lower than the worst year they quote (1981).

2002 **434**, 2003 **647**, 2004 **539**, 2005 **666**, 2006 **474**, 2007 806, 2008 **602**, 2009 **438**

The average rainfall for the 2002-2009 period is **575mm**. The average for the whole period that the weather station has been in operation 1887-2010 is **717mm**. This is lower than the 728mm for their selected 100 year period. This means the dams would run dry for longer periods of time and that more polluted water for environmental

flows would have to be pumped from the old mines. The additional volume that they pump out will have to be compensated by additional environmental flows because of the reverse groundwater gradient would increase. Their figures also fail to factor in known changes to rainfall attributed to Climate Change (a reduction of 40-50mm in rainfall over the last 4 decades).

Location of Environmental flow release

“In order to compensate for the anticipated reduction in base flows in Majors and Spring Creeks the proponent would release water to Majors Creek **down stream of the anticipated area of groundwater draw down**”. (Description of Project 752/04 July 2010 p.2-45). The outer boundary of the mapped cone of anticipated draw down is not delineated (somewhere near the escarpment) while the 1m draw down gradient downstream of the site is located well outside the proponents property.

This statement “**down stream of the anticipated area of groundwater draw down**” has a number of serious implications that have not been discussed or even acknowledged by the proponent. These include:

- Environmental damage to a large section of Majors and all of Spring creek located over the anticipated area of groundwater draw down that would not receive any environmental flows as well as being subject to as yet accurately quantified groundwater draw down;
- There are no arrangements for piping water for environmental flows over properties that are not owned by the proponent;
- There are no licensing arrangements for piping and disposing of polluted old mine water into Majors Creek adjacent to the escarpment on property that may adjoin the State Conservation Area. This concern should have been addressed by the proponent given that pollution of waters is an offence against s 120 of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*.;
- Given the uncertainty inherent in the highly subjective assumptions underpinning the theoretical modelling used to construct the groundwater draw down gradients combined with the overestimation of the capability of the harvestable rights dam (which mean more old mine water than estimated will have to be extracted for environmental flows) it is reasonable to assume that the proponent has no idea where the environmental flow outlet will be located or the severity of impacts on the environment and surrounding landholders this will cause. This is clearly a major shortcoming of the EA.

Other questions

- What is the chemical composition of the flotation reagent and does it pose a pollution risk?
- Cyanide is known to have been used in some of the old mines whose dewatering is to be used for environmental flows. What are the risks associated with this practice?

Climate Change

The Department of Planning has formally requested that the assessment include due regard for the CSIRO Climate Change predictions- **There is no discussion of**

Climate Change in the whole Environmental Assessment- Why?

Climate change would affect recharge dynamics and HR dam capability, common predictions of heavier summer rainfall is likely to increase the rate of rill, sheet and

gully erosion and would be an important consideration meriting a detailed discussion in respect to the proposed tailings dam. – **Why is there no discussion of these fundamentally prudent considerations?**

There are many other serious issues of concern contained in this proposal including dust generation, ecological and socio-economic impact that I hope have been addressed in other submissions.

To conclude, this proposal with its size scale and 24/7 rate of production and uncertainties relating to environmental impact is not an ecologically sustainable development and should not be approved in its current form. Primarily it constitutes an unacceptable risk to the fragile hydrology, ecology and peaceful residential amenity of the area.

Thankyou for the opportunity to make a submission concerning this proposal.

Yours Sincerely

**David Anthony
Currajuggle Creek**

Dept. OF Planning

Fax 9228-6466

Reference - 9228-6466

Majors Creek Mine Dargues Reef Gold

JEFF ASCHMANN
1858 Araluen Rd.
Moruya, 2537
N.S.W

Oct. 27th, 2010

I strongly object to any mine proposal at Majors Creek.

The Majors Creek, is located within the Deua River catchment which supplies the majority of the drinking water for the Eurobodalla shire. This is not acceptable and to great of a risk. The Deua river is a wild river and should have access to as much water as possible. The large amount of water used by the mine will impact on the quantity of water and also the recreational attributes of the Deua (canoeing, swimming).

I strongly object,

Sincerely, Jeff Aschmann



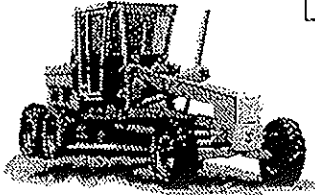
PHONE/FAX (02) 4842 2603

20 Wallace Street Braidwood 2622

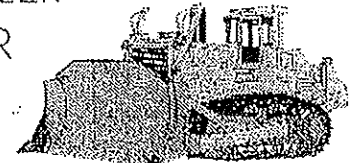
TRUCK HIRE • TIPPER • WATER • FLOAT

DOZER • GRADER • ROLLER

LOADER • EXCAVATOR



SCRAPER



28th October 2010

ABN 58575056939

Mining & Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
GPO box 39
Sydney NSW 2001.

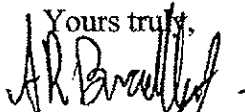
Dear Sir

**Re: Ref number 10_0054 – Dargues Reef Gold Project
Majors Creek via Braidwood**

I hereby submit my approval for the above project based on the following reasons:-

- The increase in valuable funds to the local community i.e. sponsoring local sporting groups, contributing money to local recreation grounds.
- Financial gain for the local economy – service station, schools, supermarkets hospital.
- Increase in employment for locals.
- Majors Creek and Braidwood do exist because of past gold mining and the future of these towns will depend on future projects.
- Majors Creek Road will be improved to accommodate the extra movement of trucks therefore making it safer for the locals travelling that road.

I have already moved thousands of tonnes of dirt for this project in the past 5 years. All the topsoil has been saved for rehabilitation, which will be the same way that the main road and future dams will be dealt with; assuring that there is no damage to the environment.

Yours truly,


A.R Bradley
Braidwood Earthmoving
20 Wallace Street
Braidwood NSW 2622
Ph: 0427 422603

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

Anthony Bradley

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

10-0054

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES ☐ NO ☒

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

YES ☒ NO ☐

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
Nil				Nil

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

Anthony Bradley

29-10-10.

Name(s)

Anthony Robert Bradley

To: NSW Department for Planning

From:- Janita Byrne
'Banksia Grove'
RMB 1807 Cooma Road
Ballalaba NSW 2622

1st Nov. 2010.

Reference No: 10 0054

To whom it may concern,

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project at Majors Creek NSW for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe there will be any benefit to the local community,
2. I do not believe the proposal has the interests of the local community in mind,
3. I believe the proposal will have a negative impact on the Majors Creek community in terms of acoustic and visual privacy,
4. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon my neighbouring communities in Araluen, Braidwood, Bells Creek, Riedsdale and Jembaicumbene,
5. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility is totally unacceptable,
6. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility will reduce the value of my property, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, I should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
7. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon the groundwater levels and aquifer of the surrounding locality, and I believe it will have a negative impact upon the communities of Majors Creek and Araluen and will have a direct negative impact upon the local businesses, individuals and families in the locality,
8. I believe the proposed tailings dam is completely unacceptable and poses a severe threat to the individuals, communities, ecosystems and natural habitats of all plants and animals that live (RL below) that of the dam, between Majors Creek and the coast.
9. I believe that the proposal will have a negative impact upon any indigenous site downstream of the proposed location,
10. I believe the increased semi trailer movements associated with the mine operations will have a severe impact upon the Majors Creek Road, the Araluen Road and the Kings Highway,
11. I believe that if Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona) were to propose to mine in neighbouring regions and process any of this material at the Majors Creek site that they should be prevented from doing this as it will only further the negative affects upon the local community at Majors Creek,
12. I believe the increased traffic movements associated with the staff working at the mine will have a negative affect upon the communities of Majors Creek and Braidwood,
13. I believe that if the locality surrounding the mine (any residence within a 5 km radius of the subject site), has an existing ambient noise level below 30dB(A) between the hours of 7pm and 7am, that ANY increase in this level is totally unacceptable, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
14. I believe that the amount of dust or airborne matter associated with works at the mine, through plant and machinery, and the increased traffic movements along internal roads will have a negative affect upon the surrounding community,
15. It is my opinion that the proposal does not comply with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) and as such this development should require the Federal Governments approval before proceeding,
16. I believe the specific climatic circumstances (including the heavy fog patterns) have not been taken into account in the EA, and as such the assessment and its recommendations are incorrect,
17. I believe it is my right as a resident of the locality to have my opinions heard and taken into consideration when decisions about any development in the area are made by any government body

Yours Sincerely
Janita Byrne



George Mobayed - Online Submission from andrew cairns (support)

From: andrew cairns <andyjc99@bigpond.com>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 29/10/2010 4:26 PM
Subject: Online Submission from andrew cairns (support)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Majors Creek is a mining town. If there's gold there, dig it baby!

Name: andrew cairns

Address:
65 callans lane braidwood nsw

IP Address: prx4.cn1.myschools.net - 113.29.215.132

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed
Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467
E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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George Mobayed - Online Submission from karen cairns (support)

From: karen cairns <kazcairns@bigpond.com>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 29/10/2010 4:23 PM
Subject: Online Submission from karen cairns (support)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Great job oportunity for the young people. GOOD on Cortona

Name: karen cairns

Address:
65 callans lane braidwood nsw

IP Address: prx4.cn1.myschools.net - 113.29.215.132

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
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P: (02) 9228 6467
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George Mobayed - Online Submission from Ian Cargill (support)

From: Ian Cargill <incargs@bigpond.net.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 29/10/2010 6:10 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Ian Cargill (support)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

It is good to see someone wishig to support regional NSW, although there will be some opposition to the extra trucks on our local roads, I'm sure the provisions made under conditions of the application for contributions to local roads and the extra investment in our local community will only be positive.

I urge you to support this project and support jobs in our local community and not be distracted by the noisy green element that would see us with no new infrastructure and no investment in our future.

My Familly has been in Braidwood since before the original gold rush, alot of what draws new people to our area is because of gold minning, It could be said this is a historical project as it is reinstating mining to a minning town. support our heritage and support our future, please look favourably on this project

Name: Ian Cargill

Address:
"Billaglen" Clyde Road
Braidwood 2622

IP Address: cpe-121-217-110-11.lnse2.clt.bigpond.net.au - 121.217.110.11

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed

Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467

E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Submission from Araluen Valley Pty Limited and Wisbey's Orchards October 2010

Summary

I object, as a director of both Araluen Valley Pty Ltd, and Wisbey Pty Limited, trading as Wisbey's Orchards, to the opening of the Dargues Reef Mine by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd.

Background and Substantiation of Objection

- Araluen Valley Pty Limited comprises a farm of approximately 480 hectares in the highly productive Araluen Valley. Wisbey Pty Limited, trading as Wisbey's Orchards, operates a commercially successful stone fruit orchard on the farm. Annual turnover is on average between \$1 million to \$1.2 million.
- The farm and orchard are less than 10 kms from the Dargues Reef mining site and directly downstream from both Majors Creek and Araluen Creek. Both creeks run through the property and merge as Araluen Creek on the farm. The orchard relies on access to an aquifer in Araluen Valley for irrigation of approximately 22,000 fruit trees. In addition, the farm requires water for livestock (average 120 cows and calves), a market garden, and domestic requirements, including water for up to 50 temporary staff. The orchard also relies on the native bee population resident in the surrounding native vegetation.
- 3 Water licences issued to Araluen Valley Pty Limited, permit pumping of up to 153 Megalitres per year. (I note the combined amount of the licences is close to the proposed extraction amount by Big Island Mining). To provide sufficient levels of irrigation to the trees at critical growing times, we rely on sufficient flows throughout the year to maintain the aquifer at an accessible level. During the recent drought, when the aquifer dropped significantly, water availability dropped such that sufficient volumes of irrigation were not possible to ensure a fruit crop of commercial size and quality. As a response to potentially long term drier periods, we have reduced the number of fruit trees by 2,000. The orchard, at this stage, remains commercially viable, but may come under stress based on the mine's proposed water usage. This assessment needs to be undertaken.
- Economic benefit of our operation: In addition to over \$1million turnover each year, we provide employment for 5 permanent staff & up to 50 temporary staff at different times of the year. In addition our business provides revenue for many suppliers such as the nurseries supplying fruit trees; companies selling fertilizers, fencing materials, fruit trays, fruit tray liners, chemicals, pallets, freight, mechanics who maintain our farm vehicles, and suppliers of machinery and equipment.
- Source of food: Wisbey's Orchards has been growing fruit in the Araluen Valley for over 70 years. The climate, soils and existing water supply in Araluen Valley provide

an environment for the production of not only high quality stone fruit but beef, lamb, fodder and other fruits and vegetables.

Basis for objection

No detailed independent, third party assessments have been undertaken to estimate the potential for reduction in water volumes, water quality, native vegetation and related native bee population in the proximity to our farm in the Araluen Valley – less than 10kms from the proposed mine.

- Unknown impact on groundwater levels in the Araluen Valley.
 - The assessment submitted by Big Island Mining considers the potential impact of mining on the creeks of Spring Creek and Majors Creek. There is no consideration of Araluen Creek and the impact on water fed to the creek and the related aquifer. Majors Creek and Araluen Creek merge on our property.
 - Wisbey's Orchards pumps water from one of the aquifers in Araluen Valley. The other aquifers supply water to the town of Araluen and rural producers. The majority of flows into these aquifers come from Majors Creek and Araluen Creek. Therefore it is critical that there be an assessment of the possible impact of mining on Araluen Creek and the aquifers.
 - The Department of Land and Water Conservation, NSW, produced a status report on the Ground Water in Araluen Valley in June 1999. It concluded that *'the town of Araluen is largely dependent on groundwater levels and diminishing yields during drought conditions in a number of domestic wells'*. In respect of the Araluen groundwater resource, the DLWC Aquifer Risk Assessment identified the aquifers as a **'high risk aquifer'**.
 - In the 'Araluen Groundwater Investigation Water Quality Sampling Report' dated March 2000, two key findings were noted :
 - *'the Araluen Valley groundwater resource is deemed of high beneficial use, as it provides drinking water, water for large scale crop irrigation, plus stock and domestic supplies. Unfortunately, this aquifer system is also ranked as **the third most "at risk" aquifer in the Sydney South Coast Region**, based on both the quantity and quality pressures on the groundwater resource'*.
 - As part of the water quality sampling, the source of the base flow in Araluen Creek was also investigated.*'it appears that less than 40% of the flow in Araluen Creek was from rainfall, **with the large component coming from either shallow or deep groundwater, or a source outside the valley***'. This would suggest that contrary to comments in the EA of the application of Big Mining, flows from upstream of Majors Creek and Araluen Creek are critical to the survival of the Valley as a food bowl and source of high security water.

- From our understanding, the issue of water reduction in our area, due to the depth of the proposed mine shafts, has not been assessed. Logic would say that mine shafts deeper than our water table, would result in the water flowing to the lowest point – i.e. the mine shafts.
- Potential for pollution of water
 - I am not satisfied with the assessment and undertakings noted in the application re: security of water quality. Wisbey's Orchards produces on average, over 125,000 trays (4kgs/ tray) of fruit each year. An extensive quality assurance program is in place (HACCP certified) to meet the strict requirements re such standards as maximum chemical residue and water purity. This certification is essential in order to be an approved supplier to Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, IGA, Harris Farms, other independent outlets, export markets, and to be a supplier of fruit to Sydney Markets. It is essential for Wisbey's Orchards to maintain this QA certification.
 - A condition under our water licences is that as licensees, 'we shall not allow any tail water/drainage to discharge from our property into or onto, inter alia, any river, creek or watercourse or any groundwater aquifer, nor any native vegetation as described under the Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997. These are understandable and completely reasonable conditions applying to us as the licensees. Will these same conditions apply to Big Island? If not, why not?
 - Potential leakage from tailings storage. What independent assessment has been done to ensure the lining proposed is adequate for the long term?
 - Chemical composition of tailings and impact if leakage occurs. The comment on ES – page 7 in EA is hardly re-assuring : '*the tailings would be unlikely to oxidize to form an acidic leachate*'. '*Unlikely*' is not a comforting or scientifically-based description.
- There is no assessment beyond the mine site, of the impact of a reduction in water flows on native vegetation, and the subsequent impact on native bee population.
 - The pollination of fruit trees each year is totally reliant on a strong and healthy native bee population. The cost and disease risk of introducing other bees to the area would be prohibitive.
 - During the recent severe drought, Majors Creek and Araluen Creek ceased to run, a large number of native trees died, and we have observed significantly less flora and fauna as a result.

- I query the stated duration of the mining project, and hence to long term ramifications of this mining venture. Initial project application is stated to be for five years, but in the Key Statistics, nine years. Which ever it is, from an economic viability point of view, it is more likely to have a longer lifespan given capital expenditure required to set up mine, the current price of gold; and further exploration signaled by Cortona in recent announcements and given the forecast amount of gold which may be present. What will be the process for further mining? Will environment assessments be undertaken for each new drill? For example, announcement on 25th October of new shallow high grade discovery located 150 metres north of Dargues Reef application.
- I am concerned about the combined impact on our operation of climate change and the potential reduced flows arising from mining operations. i.e. poor weather conditions potentially further exacerbated by reduced flows from the direction of Majors Creek.
- Drought periods: will the mining operations compensate those downstream or reduce pumping when there are reduced flows from rainfall catchment during prolonged periods of drought. We all have to reduce amount of water taken from Majors and Araluen Creeks during drought. Will Big Island Mining Pty Ltd, under its water licences, also be required to reduce the amount of water pumped from groundwater?
- Increased Fire hazard – our farm and the Araluen Valley are surrounded by State & National Parks. The increased dry fuel load resulting from less ground water increases the intensity of any major fire in the Araluen Valley.
- Rainfall data appears to be Braidwood-based. Majors Creek has very different rainfall levels and patterns to Braidwood; Araluen Valley has its own microclimate and also has very different rainfall patterns to Braidwood.
- Given the potential for major detrimental effects from the mining project, and the information supplied in the Major Project application, there has been insufficient time, in a 6 week exhibition period, to seek independent, third party, experts' opinions on :
 - Impact on groundwater levels in Araluen Valley
 - Impact on native vegetation and bee population
 - Insufficient detail on monitoring sights, particularly in Araluen Valley
 - Models used to assess impact on groundwater and related assumptions
 - Impact of future expansion of the mine
 These independent works need to be undertaken and then discussed over a reasonable time period.

Robyn Clubb
 Director
 Araluen Valley Pty Ltd
 Wisbey Pty Ltd t/as Wisbey's Orchards

1 November 2010

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Peter Cormick of None (object)

From: Peter Cormick <pacormick@hotmail.com>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 31/10/2010 10:46 AM
Subject: Online Submission from Peter Cormick of None (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

I see from sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment, that 'The surface water [and groundwater] assessment IS BEING undertaken ...' and that 'The Environmental Assessment WILL include a full description' (emphases added). Because these assessments have not been completed, the possible impacts of the project on water supply to the Deua River Catchment (not the Araluen Catchment!) are not known. I therefore object to the project going ahead 'until a final, independent, assessment satisfies me that there will be no adverse impact on the water supply within the Deua Catchment. It should be known that the Deua River provides the Eurobodalla Shire with almost 80% of its water needs. (I am not affiliated with any organisation (other than the NSW Rural Fire Service) and have never made any donations to any political parties.)

Name: Peter Cormick
Organisation: None

Address:
1670 Araluen Road
Deua River Valley NSW 2537

IP Address: cpe-121-217-54-132.inse1.clt.bigpond.net.au - 121.217.54.132

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed
Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467
E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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George Mobayed - Submission on proposed gold mine at Dargue's Reef

From: "Phil & Lisa Cram" <pjcram@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 4:24 PM
Subject: Submission on proposed gold mine at Dargue's Reef

Reference: 10 0054

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object the proposed Dargue's Reef Gold Mining proposal on the following grounds:

1. Majors Creek is a beautiful, picturesque, quiet little village where we can see the star lit night sky, and hear the frogs, birds, farm noises, sheep and cows with out interruption. I am concerned that the proposed 24 hour drilling, will put an end to this for 5 plus years. We can currently hear and see the drilling produces, and lighting involved with the exploration process, and I can only assume that these noises will increase and the beauty of our night sky will decrease.
2. The quiet country road that we negotiate daily to go about our business is set to become even busier, and yes it will be upgraded to accommodate the extra traffic. This is not necessarily a good thing, how many lives may be lost when people start treating it like a highway and driving with excessive speed rather than the caution shown now, how many more people and animals will be involved in bingles because the driving conditions are better? Or perhaps there will be less accidents as the wild life moves away as their habitats become encroached upon.
3. I acknowledge that the mine will bring additional revenue into the village and our main centre of Braidwood for the proposed duration of the mine. However, I am concerned that this will be negated by the fact that we may lose families from Majors Creek who did not move to this progressive little village to be imposed upon by a big mining operation and all that that entails. A lot of us moved here to escape the hustle and bustle of big business and industry, what a loss it would be to lose just one family and the benefits that families bring to a small regional area – they use the pre-school and schools, shop and spend money in local businesses, they are employed in local businesses, all adding to the stimulation of our local economy for years to come.

While the environmental impacts that the mine will have on our village and surrounds concerns me greatly, I oppose the proposed mine on the impact it will have on the community of Majors Creek and the lifestyle that I value immensely.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lisa Cram
5 Burke Street, Majors Creek

Kane Winwood - Online Submission from John Dawe of Private (support)

From: John Dawe <nugget0@yahoo.com>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 26/10/2010 8:08 PM
Subject: Online Submission from John Dawe of Private (support)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Braidwood needs a Major Project to lift it out of it's Apathy.

Name: John Dawe
Organisation: Private

Address:
CYde str. Mongarlowe 2622

IP Address: cpe-203-51-15-14.lns6.clt.bigpond.net.au - 203.51.15.14

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

Kane Winwood

E: kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Matthew Dickinson
PO Box 42,
Majors Creek,
NSW 2622

31st October, 2010

Environmental Planning Officer
Regional Projects
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Ref 10_0054

Re Proposed Dargues Reef Gold Project

I am writing in submission to the Environmental Assessment of the Dargues Reef Gold Project.

I am generally opposed to the said project as it stands in the Environmental Assessment, currently on exhibition.

SUMMARY

Objections based on:

- Water quality Impact
- Water availability
- Groundwater Impact
- Potential pollution of waterways
- Changes to surface and subsurface hydrology
- Noise impacts
- Life style impacts
- Dust affecting health and wellbeing
- Ecological impact
- Depreciation of personal assets

My concerns are outlined below.

I am a landholder in the Majors Creek area and reside on my land which is immediately adjacent to the proposed mine. My property is immediately downstream of the proposed mine and my home is across the valley within the 2 km zone as described in the EA. The mine will affect my property, my lifestyle and my quality of life in numerous ways.

Furthermore, the mine will have a significant impact on the general area and downstream on Majors Creek. The full extent of that impact has not been fully explored in the EA. The EA is poorly structured and confusing to read. It contains a great deal of information that appears to be randomly scattered throughout the document making it challenging to examine properly.

SURFACE WATER

Part 4: Surface Water Assessment Sec. 7.3.2

Refers to water quality monitoring occurring on a quarterly basis. This is grossly insufficient. To adequately detect any pollution within sufficient time to address it's cause water sampling will need to occur weekly during the establishment phase and then monthly thereafter for the duration of the mine.

Furthermore, daily observations should be made of Spring Creek for any noticeable sedimentation or signs of pollution.

Majors Creek has a healthy population of Charophytes which are a sensitive aquatic non-vascular plant. Any pollution of Majors creek would likely have an effect on the distribution and abundance of aquatic macrophytes such as Charophytes.

Furthermore, routine monitoring of aquatic macroinvertebrate populations will indicate any detrimental effects on the aquatic ecology of the stream. The EA is insufficient in that it does not even mention aquatic ecology and recommends insufficient water quality monitoring. The Deua river system has been identified by the Commonwealth Government as a High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystem. Why is this not mentioned in the EA?

Furthermore, the EA states that the project will augment surface flows with accumulated water drawn from previous mine workings should this become necessary. The quality of this water needs to be assessed prior to considering its use on the surface. Groundwater is typically cold and deoxygenated, its introduction into a surface water stream will have a negative impact until it has become oxygenated and its temperature has been raised to that of the receiving waters assuming it is not carrying a heavy metal burden in solution or any other pollutants for that matter.

The use of the unnamed watercourse as a tailings dam is not acceptable. Not only does this disturb the natural hydrology of that watercourse, but it is a disaster waiting to happen. The project only caters for a 1 in 100 ARI storm event. In 2009 two such events were recorded in the region. The likelihood of such an event occurring in the future is very high regardless of the computer modeling that has been done. The associated risk of the tailings dam being breached are extreme and would result in pollution of not only Majors Creek, but Araluen Creek, and the Deau River with nearly 1 million cubic meters of tailings. That is nearly 1000 Olympic swimming pools of sludge.

The assumptions made in Table 10 Sec 6.2.6, are not based on any factual information. The project is assumed to have a beneficial effect on the creek because of the change of landuse from agriculture (light grazing) to mining. That assumption is not supported with any evidence. Furthermore, the turbidity and TSS parameters are stated as being beneficially effected up to design parameters. I believe the design criteria are insufficient given the catastrophic effects of failure. How do the proponents state a neutral effect on water quality when they do not provide water quality data?

They repeatedly assert that there will be a reduction in pollutants assuming all surface water management options are not only implemented, but function as intended and are maintained. Furthermore, the 1 in 100 year design criteria is insufficient given the effect of failure of the surface water management infrastructure. Current thinking regarding Climate Change is that SE Australia will experience generally less rainfall and more extreme weather events. I therefore suggest that a 1 in 500 year design criteria be adopted to manage the risk to downstream water users and the natural ecology of a High Conservation Value Aquatic Ecosystem. There are numerous riparian users downstream of the site who use the Deua as a potable

water supply. What does the proponent propose to safeguard these users from a major pollution event?

My property is located immediately downstream of the proponents landholdings and therefore is the property most likely affected by water pollution and/or reduced flows. I would like to know how Cortona, it's subsidiaries and contractors will recompense me for loss of what has up until now been a very reliable water supply?

I would like to know why the rainwater figures used to calibrate the model RATES (4.5.5.4) were cut off at the end of 2002? The years since then have been extremely dry. One might conclude that the proponent wanted a skewed dataset? The annual rainfall in 2009 at Braidwood was 438mm (BOM). Why was this low rainfall data excluded from the modeling?

In fact, if we look at the data they excluded and calculate the average rainfall for the period 2002-2009 we realize that the current average rainfall is 575mm. This means that the harvestable rights dams will be insufficient and groundwater will be required to augment surface flows significantly more than the proponents declared in the EA.

I would suggest that the most recent decade of that rainfall data is far more relevant than a 100 year average curtailed at the start of the recent drought, particularly given they state the life of the mine will be 5 years. They should be using the most recent five year averages as these are much more representative of current rainfall patterns. This would then mean that the proposed mines reliance on groundwater for Environmental Flows is significantly greater. The resulting groundwater drawdown would also be significantly greater.

The proposal that sediment basins be designed for a 20 year ARI is insufficient and a 100 year ARI should be used.

Further to my points above, the construction of the dams under the harvestable right will be withholding water from Majors Creek even if it is proposed to be returned to the creek under base flow conditions.

Risk Analysis: A major pollution event gets rated an H in the risk matrix. How can this be? It should rate an E representing the impact such an event could have on the downstream aquatic ecosystem and human water users. This ranking throws the whole non mitigated risk assessment into question. Furthermore, the risk assessment does not look at the possibility of failure of the tailings dam wall. This has occurred in several other locations in NSW resulting in major pollution. Such an event would be catastrophic to Majors Creek and to my section of the creek and would have a very severe impact on Araluen Creek and its health and that of the downstream users.

GROUNDWATER

It would appear from the EA that the two types of shallow aquifers are intrinsically connected. Thus they should be viewed as one system not two. We have the alluvial and regolith aquifers at or near surface that interact with surface water and that are dependent on rainfall to remain hydrated. Even the fractured Granitorite aquifer is dependent on surface water and rainfall. The conclusions reached using the modeling completed for the EA are a great leap of faith given the paucity of real data that has informed those models. The proponent needs to do real monitoring of groundwater including long term pump tests to properly calibrate their model.

It is my assertion that in layman's terms, there is NOT enough water to support this operation for the following reasons:

Leakage from the Alluvial Aquifers i.e. "seepage from the alluvium to the mine or shafts where the groundwater flow gradient has been reversed is embargoed water"(3-54 Report 752/05 Majors Creek due to mining activities is an unlicensed extraction of embargoed water.

This leakage has been significantly underestimated as more water will be required from the dewatering of old mine workings to meet operational and environmental flow requirements owing to the deliberate omission of recent rainfall records.

The cone of groundwater drawdown is currently estimated at 1m within 500m of the escarpment. This means that groundwater drawdown of 1m will occur on my property. The result of this will be a complete drying of Majors Creek on my property. The proponent suggests they will add water from various sources to replace the water lost to the mine and they will do this outside the cone of drawdown. This would mean that the creek on my property will be dry for the life of the mine and at least 5 years after. The proponent has not contacted me regarding this matter. The EA states that they will seek an arrangement with landholders affected in this way. I am an aquatic ecologist by professional qualification and the natural waterway on my property is the principal reason I purchased the property.

How will Cortona, Big Island Mining or their subsidiaries and contractors recompense me for the fundamental loss of value and amenity to my property, not to mention loss of my riparian right?

If more operational and environmental flow water is obtained from mine dewatering how far will this extend the cone of drawdown and what will the impact be on receiving waters?

I have one spring fed creek on my property (unnamed) and one other spring that is 100m up from the bridge on Majors Creek Road. both of these springs are locally known to be very reliable water sources, the former supplying 2 households with domestic and stock water.

Any changes to the flow patterns of either of these springs will have a profound effect on the value of my property and the lifestyles of my neighbors' who use that water. What does Cortona Resources or it's subsidiary, Big Island Mining propose to do to compensate me or my neighbour's for loss of what has until now been a reliable water supply and any consequent depreciation in land value?

Furthermore, numerous people within the Major's Creek community hold licensed bores on their properties. It is highly likely that these bores will be depleted by activities carried out by Cortona or their subsidiaries or contractors in order to develop the Dargues Reef mine. The EA simply dismisses the likelihood of any impact summarily. This is grossly insufficient given the hardship that may be endured when mining activity draws down the groundwater and peoples bores literally dry up. The drawdown of up to 5m in the aquifer (EA 4.4.5.4) is not acceptable because the effects of this are largely unknown. The lowering of the aquifer will also have a profound effect on the ecological communities surrounding the site and is likely to cause the death of native vegetation and promote weed growth.

Water Quality

The proposed project relies heavily on the use of groundwater extracted from old workings and dewatering of the proposed mine itself. Table 5 sec 3.32 reproduces water quality data that was measured from groundwater at the site. The method used to obtain the samples appears to comply with accepted monitoring standards. However, the water quality itself is of concern. The water in 2 samples appears to be basic and in one case extremely basic. This water with a pH value of 12.2 would be toxic to aquatic organisms and highly corrosive. The EC of the groundwater is consistently above ANZECC 2000 guidelines and would appear to be highly saline. The nutrients Nitrate and Phosphorus generally exceed the ANZECC guidelines and if that water was introduced at surface would result in further eutrophication of receiving waters. The Water quality objectives for the Moruya River are quoted in the EA and yet the groundwater they are proposing to use to replenish lost water from Majors Creek has significantly higher concentrations of Nitrogen and Phosphorus than is required under those same objectives for upland rivers. This is unacceptable and I would like to know how the proponent will address it?

Furthermore, Chromium and Zinc exceed the ANZECC guidelines and use of the water for the purpose intended would be a knowing pollution of the receiving waters.

The modeling completed to predict how much water was going to be used to replenish surface flow lost to Majors Creek is clearly flawed by the omission of recent rainfall data implying greater reliance on groundwater than is reported. If the groundwater from the historic workings and other sources is used there is a high likelihood that it will have a detrimental effect on water quality in Majors Creek. How will Cortona Resources, their subsidiaries and or contractors recompense me as a neighbour, other downstream water users and the environment as a whole for degradation in water quality?

The Precautionary Principle should be applied and this mining proposal be rejected on the grounds that it will have a detrimental effect on volume, availability and quality of both groundwater and surface water.

The unmitigated risk assessment rates drawdown and loss of groundwater recharge to surface waters as Moderate or High. Such an effect would surely rate Extreme if the result is drying of naturally wet places?

NOISE

When I purchased my property I was struck by the silence of the area, particularly at night. I could hear frogs croaking in the creek over a kilometre away. It was this peace whilst sitting and meditating that convinced me it would be a good place to settle. Unfortunately, Cortona commenced exploration and now has the mining proposal that this EA is part of. In the last year or so, the noise of drilling has at times been very intrusive and has certainly disturbed my peace and quiet. That's just with exploration occurring. I anticipate that the constant roar and rumble of the mine will be significantly more intrusive. That is not mentioning the blasting and associated warning sirens.

The EA states that 35Db (Table 4.9) is the acceptable level of background noise one should be accustomed to. I refute this claim. Humans can get used to extremely noisy environments but do not necessarily enjoy them. Is it a coincidence that the computer models used to determine if the noise from the proposed mine is acceptable at my home have been reported as being 34Db (Table 4.9) , only 1Db quieter than the supposed acceptable level!

Cortona or contractors acting for them have not monitored noise at my home and have no factual basis on which to make the claims they do in the EA. The data used to inform the model for noise pollution is not based on real monitoring of actual noise levels during temperature inversions.

Furthermore, the EA states that the noise parameters will be frequently exceeded and yet the unmitigated risk analysis states it will be unlikely. This is confusing. Either way regular exceedance of the noise criteria is not acceptable.

The ongoing nature of the mine and the relentless background noise of industrial activity is of particular concern to me. It will be punctuated by excessive and extremely loud percussions and explosions in excess of 120Db. I choose to live in a rural area to get away from this aspect of modern life. How will Cortona, its subsidiaries and contractors compensate me for the loss of my peace?

The location of my home (R27) means that I hear the sound of trucks travelling up Wombat Hill on their way in to Braidwood. This noise has been occasional and not too intrusive although the use of exhaust brakes by trucks associated with the mine is excessive. The noise of large trucks removing the very heavy concentrate from the mine and then negotiating the intersection (proposed) with Majors Creek Road, the return of the same trucks, the movements of service vehicles, staff vehicles, industrial loading and dumping vehicles are going to increase the traffic noise substantially. The sheer number of traffic movements including large noisy trucks associated with the mine represents a radical change for not only me but the wider Majors Creek community.

The proponents propose to continue the mining operation 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days/year. Is the pursuit of profit so important that the rights of local communities are ignored over the greed of people who will not be affected?

I cannot emphasise my objections to the proposed hours of operation strongly enough. It is one thing to have noisy activities occurring during the normal working week. It is something entirely different to have noise generating activities occurring day and night on every day of the year. The local community is overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed 24/7 operating hours. Furthermore, the proponents' state they wish to carry out construction activities during daylight hours, 7 days a week. This would mean the Majors Creek community and myself in particular given my location, would be subjected to blasting and heavy earthmoving from approx 6 am through to approx 8pm 7 days a week for several months. I object to this imposition on my right to the quiet enjoyment of my home.

Furthermore, I am currently a light sleeper and have been suffering from some insomnia in recent times. This has been exacerbated by drilling activity associated with the proposed mine. This will only get worse with construction activities, blasting and earthmoving followed by the din of rock crushing.

How will Cortona, its subsidiaries and contractors compensate me and my family for the loss of sleep and peace we will be forced to experience?

How will Cortona, its subsidiaries and contractors compensate the Majors Creek community for the loss of peace?

The proposed mining operation will be an imposition on my right to the quiet enjoyment of my property. I sit and meditate daily and use this to promote my own health and wellbeing. Only this morning my practice was disturbed by the sound of a drill rig grinding away at the site. The proposed mining operation will make this very difficult. Ground vibrating explosions, blast waves, percussive rock breaking, and machinery movements including reversing alarms will all make it very difficult to enjoy

the natural surroundings that I purchased the place for. How will Cortona, its subsidiaries and contractors compensate me for disturbing my right to quiet enjoyment of my home?

Noise Monitoring

The implementation of quarterly noise monitoring measures is in my view pathetically inadequate. There should be a noise monitoring program that includes weekly sampling taken at different times of day and night without the management or staff at the mine being informed that it was occurring. The monitoring of blasting should also be carried out routinely for all blasts when the box cut and portal is being established. This needs to be done at several locations around the site of blasting. All complaints about noise received from the community will clearly have to be recorded.

DUST

I note from Table 4.42 that my property and home will be the worst affected by dust pollution. Like everybody else in Majors Creek, I rely on collected rainwater for my water supply. Clearly the dust emanating from the mine and any contaminants that dust may carry including presumably, the dust suppressants applied to reduce dust will be deposited on the roof of my dwelling. From the roof, the dust will be carried into my rainwater tanks. How is Cortona, its subsidiaries or contractors going to compensate me for the pollution of my drinking water?

Furthermore, I do not use a tumble drier. Therefore all my clothes are dried in the wind. If this project goes ahead my clothes will be polluted with dust arising from the mine. How will the mining company address this issue beyond some dust suppression measures on the road and processing facilities?

I would also point out that my 7 year old daughter suffers from occasional asthma. Dust is a known irritant of airways, particularly those of asthma sufferers. How will Cortona, its subsidiaries and contractors compensate me, my wife and our daughter for deterioration in her health?

Visual Pollution

One of the reasons I have enjoyed living at Majors Creek are the attractive rural vistas and rolling hills. This will be marred by an industrial view as I enter and leave my property. I have also been very impressed with the brilliance and number of visible stars in the night sky. The proposed hours of operation of this mine will impact not only by addition of lighting where there is none but also reduce the number and brilliance of stars in the night sky. The EA does not state how many lumens will emanate from the complex and infrastructure of the mine. This should be addressed. How will Cortona, its subsidiaries or contractors compensate me for loss of visible stars in the night sky? Particularly if the lights are visible from the Newell Highway!

Ecology

The Tableland Basalt Endangered Ecological Community exists in the area and will be affected. This has been omitted from the EA. Impacts are mentioned within the Natural Temperate Grasslands EEC and the preliminary listing of Tablelands Frost Hollow Grassy Woodlands EEC. Those impacts cannot be undone and should therefore be avoided at all costs.

I am particularly concerned about the ecology and health of Majors Creek and Araluen Creek. The Deua River will receive all waters discharged from the proposed mine. The proponents' consultant was apparently confused regarding naming of waterways. The Moruya River ceases to be known as the Moruya R. at its tidal limit

and is known as the Deua above that point. Majors Creek has been subject to severe degradation and sedimentation associated with mining and land degradation attributable to agriculture. There is a major "sand slug" choking the Deua R in its lower reaches. The proposed project may well significantly add to this. The EA casually suggests that if they do make it they will remove it. That is ridiculous. Dredging rivers is challenging in tidal areas but in steep inaccessible country it is next to impossible and certainly not possible without causing more harm. This would be the case should additional sedimentation occur under this proposal which seems likely.

The effect of pollution from this proposal ranges from catastrophic to ongoing minor pollution. The Precautionary Principle would preclude the mine until such time as it can be demonstrated that No harm will be done either during the mines operation or in the future.

Transport

I note that Cortona is negotiating Sect 94 contributions with Palerang Council. Will their contribution cover the actual costs of improving and maintaining the road given the additional heavy vehicle movements? Or will the real costs be subsidised by the ratepayers?

Furthermore, the EA states during operation there will be 18 heavy vehicle movements per day (Table 2.9), presumably from out of the district either, removing concentrate from the mine or delivering supplies to the mine. All of these vehicles will move up and down Wallace Street in Braidwood. This part of Braidwood is heritage listed and the additional truck movements may cause damage to buildings with the resultant effects on tourism and commerce. Why was this not addressed in the EA?

Socio-Economic

It can be argued that the proposed mine may benefit the Majors Creek community through provision of local employment. This may be of benefit to a few people but not the majority. The village of Majors Creek is a residential area. The kind of activity being proposed by the mine is inappropriate for a residential area even if the land is zoned Rural 1a. Furthermore, the proponents do not state how they will compensate neighbours for reduced land values beyond a sweeping statement that they will enter into agreements with individuals most affected. No-one has contacted me regarding this. I anticipate the value of my property will be significantly affected as it is directly opposite this mine and immediately downstream.

Ecologically Sustainable Development. (6.1.2)

To claim that digging a hole in the ground 500m deep, taking rock by the truckload out of that hole and crushing it using electricity derived largely from burning fossil fuels to get a few grams of a yellow metal that has few practical uses is laughable. This insults the principles of ESD and this section should be struck out because there is no way this proposal can comply with the principles of ESD.

Best Regards
Matthew Dickinson

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below

Disclosure statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

MA TTHEW D. DICKINSON

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

REF 10-0054

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES / ☒ NO

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

☒ YES ☐ NO

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the relevant period (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN)

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
NONE	NONE	NONE	None	None

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overhead if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

Name(s)

MA TTHEW D. DICKINSON

George Mobayed - Ref 10 0054 Dargues Reef Gold Mine

From: "Will Douglas" <willdouglas@bournet.com.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 27/10/2010 3:33 PM
Subject: Ref 10 0054 Dargues Reef Gold Mine

SUBMISSION IN OPPOSITION

I respectfully submit that the proposed gold mine at Dargues Reef, Majors Creek, NSW, not be permitted to proceed, on the grounds that:

- * it is going to take huge amounts of groundwater which will lower the groundwater table significantly, threatening ecosystems in surrounding areas and far downstream
- * the same drops in groundwater will impact severely on agricultural, horticultural and grazing operations for many kilometres around the mine site
- * diminution of groundwater and aquifer recharge will seriously affect dry period flows in the Deua River which in turn will affect hundreds of landholders downstream, as well as the capacity of dry season water supplies in the Eurobodalla Shire
- * the tailings dam will be built without a second safety wall, which is clearly an invitation for potential disaster should peak rainfall events or mechanical or hydrological failure of the dam wall occur, releasing tailings into the Deua River catchment
- * the ore, 1.5 million tonnes of it over 5 years, will be transported by truck on local roads and the major arterial Araluen Rd, with concomitant affects on residents and landscapes, including dust, noise, traffic, risk of collision and inconvenience to local townsfolk
- * whilst the Majors Creek area was once a bustling alluvial and shallow mine gold extraction site, it has not been so for over 100 years. The effects of a mine of this size and nature on the quiet and peaceful enjoyment by local landholders of their landholdings and communities will be profound and overwhelmingly deleterious.

I ask that Planning NSW consider my objections and act accordingly to not permit the Dargues Reef mine to proceed.

Your faithfully,

William A. Douglas
Burra Ck
Deua River Valley
Moruya NSW 2537
02 4474 5765

Jessica Drake

Soils - Rehabilitation – Restoration

Unit 8/86 Anzac Park
Campbell ACT 2612
Jessica.Drake@anu.edu.au

NSW Department of Planning

31st October 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Public Comment, Dargues Reef Gold Project, PA 10_0054

Please find the attached a Technical Report as part of a public comment regarding Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054). This report is part of the submission undertaken by Jackie French and Authors, and aims to evaluate technical concerns of the proposed project and its Environmental Assessment.

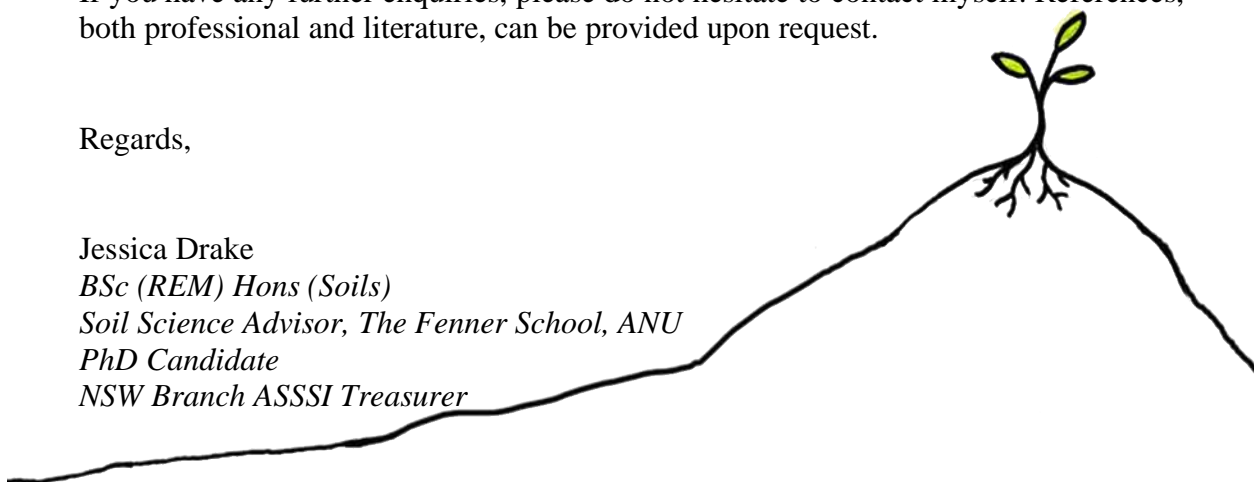
The Primary Recommendations from this report include:

- Ground and Surface Water Modelling requires additional research and clarification. Consider a third-party to review the sections and modelling.
- Rehabilitation plan needs development and refinement. The aim and implementation strategy for rehabilitation is unclear.
- The Biodiversity Strategy is unclear and needs further development before proposal approval.
- Troglifauna and other ground water ecology were not assessed.
- Long term socio-economic impacts of the mine at closure are not addressed.

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact myself. References, both professional and literature, can be provided upon request.

Regards,

Jessica Drake
BSc (REM) Hons (Soils)
Soil Science Advisor, The Fenner School, ANU
PhD Candidate
NSW Branch ASSSI Treasurer



Technical Assessment: Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)

Introduction

The following is a technical assessment of the proposed Dargues Reef Gold Project Environmental Assessment (EA). It aims to address community and environmental concerns, by stating concern, reasons for concern and outlines possible ways of managing or addressing the concerns. Each concern will be addressed in term of its broader theme, e.g. rehabilitation, water, biodiversity etc, and will have a code for its specific section.

Mine Operations

2.2.3 Site Access Road and Intersection

Impact of roads on waterways should be addressed, and exact plans as per *Why Do Fish Need to Cross the Road? Fish Passage Requirements for Waterways Crossings*, erosion and storm water design should be highlighted and addressed fully in the EA.

2.9.3.3 Traffic Types and Levels

Please state plans for dust monitoring and suppression for external roads in and out of the proposed site.

Water

2.2.4 Surface Water Harvesting Structures

Requires details regarding the percentage of water harvestable that will be used for a) the proposed project and b) released as environmental flows. Dam construction, design and materials used for construction should be further outlined in the EA, including the model and parameters used for the 1 in 100 year event design. Significant erosion and dam failure should be considered in the EA, should an event greater than 1 in 100 years occurring during mine life and rehabilitation.

2.2.5 Groundwater Harvesting Infrastructure

The EA is not explicit about the location and source of the 740ML of water that will be recovered from processing and tailings. The 740ML of water has to come from a source **before** it can be used in the processing of the mineral, and thus before it can be dewatered. The exact location and source of this 740ML needs to be clearly defined in the EA before approval, including source, models and parameters and long term environmental, social and economic impacts addressed.

Furthermore, the 130ML of additional or new water is not clearly determined in the EA. This includes the additional 22ML of additional dewatering from the Dargues Reef Project which was not included in the 740ML above, the difference in the 33ML, 55ML and 79ML asked for historic groundwater extraction and the dams differ

between 34.5ML and availability of 66.2ML will be available, given events. The modelling for all of the above should be clearly defined, including parameters and models used, environmental concerns (down stream and ground water effects) and include drought events and management, and long term environmental, social and economic impacts addressed. This was also not clearly defined in Section 4.

2.10.2.5 Potable Water, and 2.10.2.6 Operational Water

These sections do not match Section 2.4.6. Please explain and expand, as per above.

Please identify how base flow was calculated, including model and all parameters. Please demonstrate how base flow will be maintained, both in volumes and flow regimes.

Please identify impact of change in flows on troglofauna (attention to ground water) and aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates and plants.

Please discuss the long term social, environmental and economic effects of changes in ground water and surface water flows and their interactions.

4.4.3 Management and Mitigation Measures (Groundwater)

Please provide critical limits and thresholds, including methods and parameters used to determine them.

4.4.4.3 Model Development

MODFLOW SURFACT is a United States of America model and does not necessarily reflect the same environmental conditions as Australia. This means that some of the modeling undertaken for groundwater flows, availability and interactions with surface water, may be incorrect. Please specify how specific Australian conditions were added into the model or use an Australian Groundwater Model. Consider contacting the Australian Centre for Groundwater Research and Training and iCAM at the Australian National University for assistance.

4.4.5.6 Impact on Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

There is insufficient information regarding groundwater ecological impacts. Please demonstrate troglofauna and ecosystem survey and assessment, as well as impacts and management strategies.

4.5.6.7 Erosion Management

What are the potential impacts of upstream erosion on the proposed plan? How will these be mitigated?

General Comments

There are several inconsistencies and lack of information in all Sections (2, 4 and Technical Report) regarding Ground and Surface Water (volumes, management, changes in conditions and impacts, environmental flows etc). It is suggested that a

impartial third-party of groundwater and surface water specialists need to review the aforementioned sections of the proposed plan.

Drought and dry conditions are not suitably acknowledged or identified within the report, including management for both wet and dry periods.

Waste Rock

2.5.3 Waste Rock Emplacement Design

Design needs to consider visual amenity and erosion control.

Chemicals

2.6.5 Concentrate Management

Will water from this process be part of the 740ML as in Section 2.2.5? If so, please state volume and what treatments will be undertaken on the water prior to reuse.

2.6.6 Reagent Management

Please list details of the *Hydrocarbon, Chemical and Reagent Management* Plan with all known reagents and chemicals to be used on site, including fuel.

Tailings Dam

2.7.2.2 Tailings Dam Design and Construction

Please state the exact permeability of the lining of the Tailings dam and the exact method of ensuring minimal permeability. The entire area of the Tailings Dam should be lined to minimize leakage to ground and surface water.

Please state erosion control mechanisms for the tailings dam wall e.g. waste rock emplacement on outer wall surface or revegetation, or both etc.

Long term and emergency plans should also exist if the Tailings Dam fails or an event occurs which exceeds design specifications (greater than a 1 in 100 year event).

2.5.4 Waste Rock Emplacement, Processing and Reclamation Procedures

Waste rock use in tailings storage should be identified and clearly discussed. This should include its exact use, its grade (e.g. D50, D100 etc), and if it is to be used to minimise erosion in structural design or part of the structure.

Rehabilitation

2.14.2 Rehabilitation Objectives

Please list the Overall Aim of the Rehabilitation Objective. For example, aim for an self-sustaining and resilient ecosystem (Drake et al. 2010), which is a) native, b) local

endemic native, c) agricultural, d) pastoral etc, as per Section 2.14.3.2. Please be clear about what you intend to achieve as a result of Rehabilitation.

I agree that there should be a degree of flexibility in rehabilitation strategies, should conditions change. However, an overall aim should help guide rehabilitation planning and practices, and this should be clear for the assessment by Planning Authorities and local Community.

2.14.3 Progressive Rehabilitation, 2.14.5 Decommissioning of Infrastructure and Services, 2.14.7 ROM Pad, 2.14.8 TSF, 2.14.9 Other Areas

This section is unclear, and there is insufficient detail regarding planning and implementation for rehabilitation. Please list the stages that will be undertaken to achieve rehabilitation, and the on-ground implementation/works for rehabilitation for each specific site (TSF, roads etc). For example, please see Drake et al. 2010.

Please list in detail what plant species you will use to rehabilitate the site, with particular attention to problems with root penetration of the Tailings Storage Facility.

2.12.10 Spreading of Soil and Revegetation

Is there appropriate volume of soil available for respreading? Please identify and clarify. This was also not identified in Section 4.

Seeding and revegetation of the site is unclear. Please clarify Aim of Rehabilitation (as above). This will enable to address what species you will be using as either being pastoral or endemic or both.

Please identify what remediation techniques are likely to be needed to ensure soil is suitable media for vegetation establishment. For example, mulches with low available nutrients.

Please identify erosion control of the site during time that native species and/or sterile cover crop may become established. For example, mulches, rock mulching (from waste rock materials) etc.

2.14.11 Rehabilitation Management and Monitoring

Please list details of the indicators that will be used in monitoring. For example, scales of success or lack of success, how this information will be used for adaptive management of rehabilitation practices on the site. Consider using Landscape Function Analysis and Key Performance Indicators in addition to Drake et al (2010) for rehabilitation planning and monitoring. Both Rehabilitation and Monitoring needs to consider site stability (geotechnics), functions (nutrient and water cycling), structure (complexity of ecosystem, habitat, vegetation structure etc) and composition (biodiversity of flora and fauna, from microbiology to mammals and lichens to trees).

Please address, with detail, how you will assess the success of rehabilitation.

4.11 Visual Amenity

Should also be considered and identified within the Rehabilitation Strategy.

4.8 Bushfire

Please consider risks and management of Bushfire in Rehabilitation Planning and Implementation. For example, designing a resilient system with vegetation traits that can withstand bushfires.

Biodiversity

2.15 Biodiversity Offset Strategy

There is insufficient detail regarding the Biodiversity Strategy. Several sections refer to the Strategy (Section 4, 2), however it is not detailed in the EA. It is difficult to assess how the proposed mine intends to deal with this requirement, in which the EPBC and TSC Acts both need to be considered.

Furthermore, is noted that the final Biodiversity Offset Strategy ‘would be prepared within 12 months of receipt of project approval’. However, subsequent sections outline the proposed strategy. Please confirm if the strategy outlined in the EA is proposed, or if it will change at 12 months after approval. If it is likely to change, please outline how it will change, the consultation process and under what circumstances, and as per sections 2.15.5 and 4.3.5 and 4.3.6.8.

The Biodiversity Strategy should be outlined before the proposal is approved to ensure that there is sufficient community, scientific, legislative and other stakeholder consultation and reviewing prior to approval.

2.15.2 Consultation

This does not match section 2.15 or Rehabilitation Sections, e.g. 2.14.2. Please clarify Aim of Rehabilitation and Aim of Biodiversity Offsetting, and ensure they match.

Community

4.1.6 Surrounding Community and 4.13 Socio-Economic Climate

Please detail the community mine closure plan. The mine closure plan should aim to lessen economic and social impact on the community at mine cessation. For example, a Trust Fund for the community, mitigation regarding loss of business, over capacity housing (abandoned buildings), securing of employment and long term prospects of the community. The plan should also consider that cessation, or temporary suspension of work, may occur prior to or after the original intended date of cessation.

Ecology

4.3.5 Management and Mitigation (Ecology)

Fauna management on the site is not detailed. This includes relocation, management and reintroduction, Biodiversity Offsetting and Rehabilitation.

Fauna deaths should be monitored and sent away for third-party assessment. Reporting on all faunal deaths should be required.

Please consider incorporating the Ecology and Biodiversity Management with Rehabilitation.

4.3.6.4 TSC Act Detailed Impact Assessment and 4.3.6.5 EPBC Act

Please clarify the method undertaken to determine that there are no impacts as per the TSC and EPBC Act. For example, “Vegetation within the Project Site is not critically important to the long-term survival of threatened species”. Please explain how this was determined and why.

With unknown risks on species, for example the impact of noise and illumination on the Little Eagle, what risk management strategies will be undertaken to ensure minimal impact and further understanding of these species? Will monitoring be undertaken?

Please identify risks and management of troglifauna.

4.3.7 Monitoring (Ecology)

Please outline intended ongoing fauna monitoring, impact and assessment surveys, as well as adaptive management.

Soils

4.12.4 Management and Mitigation (Soils) and 2.3.3 Soil Stripping

Stripping should ensure minimal mixing of soil types and horizons, and plans regarding this should be outlined. This could include identification of areas and stockpile locations for each soil type and horizon; staff/contractors undertaking the soil stripping and stockpiling should be trained and shown each soil type and location before operation commencement to avoid accidental mixing.

Please consider strategies to deal with potentially dispersive soils, including organic matter maintenance and other amelioration strategies. Please consider structure and drainage that will reduce impacts of erosion (rill, gullies and tunneling) such as concave slopes. Slope lengths also need to consider grade, for example a steep 80m slope will be more prone to erosion than a concave low-grade 80m slope.

Primary Recommendations

- Consider an independent, not-for-profit third party to assess all aspects of water. This includes changes to drainage, dams and impacts on towns/stakeholders, modeling, flows, use and balances. There are several inconsistencies within the plan that need to be rectified before approval.
- Consider further development of a Biodiversity Strategy. These sections are not clearly defined and confusing, and should be rectified before approval.
- Need to develop and better identify Rehabilitation Aims, Planning and Implementation prior to approval.
- Further develop a community based socio-economic mining cessation plan.
- Need to consider Troglodfauna and associated habitat and ecosystems in groundwater assessments.
- Consider broader Monitoring Plans for Rehabilitation and Fauna, as well as associated adaptive management.

Name: Jennifer Edwards
Address: 136 Annetts Pde
Mossy Point NSW 2537

29 October 2010

DARGUES REEF MINE
Reference number 10 0054

Email to: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project on the grounds that it could adversely affect my Shire's water supply and public health of residents; that the tailings dam is not fail safe; and the draw down of groundwater will affect remnant vegetation and wildlife.

WATER SUPPLY

The mine site is mainly in the Moruya River Catchment, the source of most of our Shire's water supply.

The Environmental Assessment states the groundwater discharge to Spring Creek will be reduced by up to approximately 9.4ML/year. The reduced net groundwater discharge to Majors Creek will be up to approximately 56.8ML/ year. And the standing water level in two bores (maybe more) would be lowered by up to 7.5m.

For over a year Eurobodalla residents relied for their sole town water supply on Deep Creek Dam which has a capacity of only 8ML. The reduction in flows to Spring and Majors Creeks will have a significant impact downstream.

The company says the "proposed harvestable rights dams could provide water required for the proposed **environmental flows** on 97% of days modelled. On those days when water would not be available from the harvestable rights dams, water for environmental flows would be sourced from the historic workings." Environmental flows are only a small percentage of river flows in average years.

HEALTH

The tailings dam is also in the Moruya River Catchment. Reagents are not specified but in other recently opened goldmines the water in the tailings dams is toxic.

The dam design is not world's best practice since it is only to have one wall. Should there be a break or a leak then there is nothing to prevent the tailings water and sludge entering the catchment streams and river.

IMPACT ON REMNANT VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE.

The proposal needs to be assessed for its impact downstream of the site at least as far as the distance it will affect groundwater levels. This distance needs to be accurately

measured prior to approval by test bores carried out over a period that includes dry seasons as this is the time when the biodiversity will be most under stress.

Due to past land clearing, the remnant vegetation is now more valuable than ever for biodiversity conservation and needs to be fully protected and increased in area. The endangered tree *Eucalyptus kartzoffiana* is just one of the threatened species that could be significantly harmed.

The Assessment says “appropriate negotiated arrangements would be implemented in relation to the bores that may be impacted.” How will the company negotiate with the vegetation and wildlife affected.

CONCLUSION

Given the significant impacts this mine could have on biodiversity, people’s health and shire water supplies there needs to be much more research to determine its likely impacts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Edwards', written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Edwards

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Richard Fisher of Nil (other)

From: Richard Fisher <jafisher@netspeed.com.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28/10/2010 6:33 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Richard Fisher of Nil (other)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

I was unaware that the EIS was available until Tuesday 26 October. Given the size and complexity of the document, and the calamitous potential that the mine could have for Moruya River, I request that the submissions period be extended by at least one month.

Thank you

Name: Richard Fisher
Organisation: Nil

Address:
PO Box 119 Broulee NSW 2537
[119 Annetts Pde Mossy Point NSW 2537 no mailbox]

IP Address: 121-79-29-99.bb.ispone.net.au - 121.79.29.99

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed
Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467
E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

[Powered by Internetix Affinity](#)

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Richard Fisher of Nil (object)

From: Richard Fisher <jafisher@netspeed.com.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 4:37 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Richard Fisher of Nil (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Unfortunately, the release of the Dargues Reef Mine Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) kept a surprisingly low profile in the Eurobodalla. Its release was unknown to the Eurobodalla general population before 26 October 2010, when private individuals began circulating information.

I corresponded with you earlier seeking an extension of the submission period, and have heard nothing to suggest that the period will be extended. Thus I am submitting the following.

Tourism in the Eurobodalla funds approximately 2,800 jobs, much of the tourism is a consequence of the region's pristine waters. Those 2,800 jobs should be protected if they can. Any proposal that could jeopardise the pristine state of the waters, and consequently those jobs, must be treated with extreme caution.

There are many in the Eurobodalla general community who are eminently qualified to analyse the EIS and to competently assess the impact of the proposed mine on the Moruya River. I am not one of them.

Despite my lack of formal qualifications, I am confident that the tailings dam for the mine could cause pollution or some other adverse environmental outcome from any one of the following, and this list is not exhaustive:

Flood overflow;
Failure of the dam wall;
Wildlife accessing toxic water;
Contamination of the water table;
Failure by the mine operators to properly maintain the tailings dam, and to rehabilitate the area, after the mine ceases operation.

The Eurobodalla community has not had sufficient time to digest the importance of this proposal to them, or for the experts within its ranks to be able to make a properly informed comment. Accordingly, I submit that the proposal should be rejected until such time as the full community has been properly informed about the proposed mine, and has had a suitable opportunity to make that properly informed comment.

Name: Richard Fisher
Organisation: Nil

Address:
PO Box 5091 Broulee NSW 2527
[119 Annetts Pde Mossy Pt NSW 2537 - no mailbox]

IP Address: 112-213-146-140.bb.ispone.net.au - 112.213.146.140

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed

Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

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E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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George Mobayed - Fwd: e-SUBMISSION re: Dargues Reef MINE EIS @/nr.Majors Creek, via Braidwood

From: Joe Friend <friendjoe7@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>, <geoldham@yahoo.com.au>
Date: 26/10/2010 6:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: e-SUBMISSION re: Dargues Reef MINE EIS @/nr.Majors Creek, via Braidwood

To: '[comment](mailto:comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)'@planning.nsw.gov.au

Date: Tue, 26 Oct 2010 18:38:38 +1100

Subject: Dargues Reef Mine planned/EIS for 'Comment' re. Water Quality AND Perennial Ground-Water Volume Deterioration Downstream AND DOWNSLOPE towards Araluen

Attention: OIC/'Comment',

***'URGENT' INDEPENDENT Scientific Input,

@ NSW Dep't of Anonymity, Short-term Planning and Biodiversity-loss?

Dear Madam/Sir/s,

Three points to make, for INPUT (rsvp PLEASE) to the currently on-display 'Dargues Creek (Majors Ck) Goldmine - as planned;

1. The 'nominal area' chosen to review the possible, probable and potential, cumulative long-term and/or medium-term e-impact/s of the proposed MINE near-to Major's Ck.village is TOO SMALL (2 kms radius/2 sq.kms), and appears to have been chosen as a result of short-termist decision-making i.e. in the hope and the companies' desire to 'see' mining started there in the next 3-4 years at maximum; the area of concern regarding the mine and its probable impacts on surrounding environs IS TOO SMALL, and the reason/s for such a small area being chosen, such as to restrict the Methodology of the EIS is not-stated; this is more than an oversight; it means that there has/is 'discriminatory/favoured' treatment in the mining company's favour;

1.2 The Public should have had-the-say in 'what Area' of the country(in which they live) is/was to be the 'geographical scope' of the EIS;

2. The 'groundwater draw-down' slopes of the 'gorge' and Araluen Valley, with its steep sides just outside the area of chosen/select interest appears to have IN NO WAY, shape or form to have been considered in this matter ; there is KNOWN TO BE a severe draw-down of rock and regolith water in the

sorts of rocks KNOWN to occur to the east and southeast of the proposed mining area (ref:

Geoscience Australia, Canberra); it would appear that the

likelihood of all the creeks downstream of the mine 'drying-up' or staying dry ('no flow') even in a mild-dry season is very high, as I have experienced

similar streams running/falling-east, and drying-up completely (for years) in the recently ended 11 year drought; Climbing Galaxiid fish species used to live in the stream runnign-out of the proposed mining area; they will need water IF they are to return from where they are now v.restricted in two or three known

tributaries of the Deua River;

3. It would appear from all the recent documents I have bought and been given, authored by teams of Geophysicists and Geomorphologists from/@ GEOSCIENCE Australia, in the Aust. Capital Territory, that it IS experts based there, NOT in the state departments of mines or environment who should be

determining the methodologies to/wards assessment of the impacts of the proposed mine - which is near to Canberra IN FACT; 1.5 hrs drive away!

Geoscience Australia would, I feel sure provide a much more/better, and INDEPENDENT review of the current EIS; so I suggest that that organisation

should be involved; the best Geology maps of the area (e.g. Araluen Sheet, ref: D.Wyborn @

Geodynamics Aust.) are by far the best Australian maps for taking in this/these areas! So 'why not' trust those Geologists, who 'know' that country better, and have witnessed, and(some)lived-in those limited water resource areas!

Sincerely, and Environmentally, Joe A Friend AUTHOR, BSc(Hons1)Syd.; resident of the Braidwood area, and (I manage farm in the Deua catchment).

Contacts: P O Box 100, Braidwood, NSW.2622 ; 02 48428071 (messages) ; Environmental Scientist (ex-NSW EPA) since 1975;

NB: please Email me to confirm receipt of thie Submission, and that it is to be taken seriously. JAF

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Andrew Gow and Antony Davies of Millpond Farm (other)

From: Andrew Gow and Antony Davies <andrew.gow@millpond.com.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 10:23 AM
Subject: Online Submission from Andrew Gow and Antony Davies of Millpond Farm (other)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

We live and work in relatively close proximity to the proposed Dargues Reef mine, in the locality of Jembaicumbene. While unable to participate in the deliberations of the Majors Creek Community Liaison Committee due to other commitments, we would like to add our support to the points raised in their recent submission. Of particular concern to us are the following:

1. Increased traffic, especially heavy vehicles: Majors Creek Road is narrow with a speed limit of 100km/h. There are serious safety issues that must be addressed, including the narrowness of the road, the width of the ore-filled vehicles and the impact on those of us whose driveways lead directly onto Majors Creek Road. The idea of pulling out of a driveway into the path of an ore-filled heavy vehicle hurtling at 100km/h is frightening. We consider that the impact on the traffic movements and safety of Majors Creek Road requires further investigation.
2. Impact on groundwater: drinking water for ourselves and our animals is drawn from groundwater, which has serviced this property for the past 150 years. Provisions must be made to protect all local groundwater supplies and to provide restitution should the worst case scenario be born out and supplies are affected.
3. Impact of vibration on buildings: we are currently restoring several historic buildings on our property, including a home and a 4 storey brick and stone flour mill. Both buildings have survived for 150 years with no sign of structural damage and we hope that provisions can be made to ensure that the buildings are not subject to damage from this proposal. We also hope that provisions will ensure that should any damage eventuate, restitution can be provided.

Noise: there is emerging evidence that ongoing exposure to noise is hazardous to health, even if it is within guidelines. We would like to see the inclusion of provisions whereby a health impact assessment or similar can be instigated if residents express ongoing concern with noise while the mine is being constructed and in operation. The recommendations of any health impact assessment or similar that is undertaken under these provisions should be binding.

In closing, we would also like to acknowledge the positive and productive relations which Cortona and Mr Peter Van Der Borgh has had with us personally and the community generally. We trust that the goodwill demonstrated by all sides will continue and that with ongoing impact assessment, appropriate responses will be identified to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes.

Name: Andrew Gow and Antony Davies
Organisation: Millpond Farm

Address:
660 Majors Creek Road
Jembaicumbene NSW 2622

IP Address: 194.16.59.202.static.soulaustralia.com.au - 202.59.16.194

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

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Fay Griggs
20 Wallace Street
Braidwood NSW 2622

28th October 2010

Mining & Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
GPO box 39
Sydney NSW 2001.

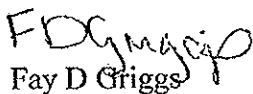
Dear Sir

**Re: Ref number 10_0054 – Dargues Reef Gold Project
Majors Creek via Braidwood**

I hereby submit my approval for the above project based on the following reasons:-

- The increase in valuable funds to the local community i.e. sponsoring local sporting groups, contributing money to local recreation grounds.
- Financial gain for the local economy – service station, schools, supermarkets hospital, clubs, motels and hotels.
- Increase in employment for locals- as a mother of 3 children local employment is an issue with myself.
- Majors Creek and Braidwood do exist because of past gold mining and the future of these towns will depend on future projects.
- Majors Creek Road will be improved to accommodate the extra movement of trucks therefore making it safer for the locals travelling that road.

Yours truly,


Fay D Griggs

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

Fay Briggs

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES / ☒ NO

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

☒ YES / NO

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
Nil				Nil

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

Fay Briggs 29/10/10

Name(s)

Fay Dennis Briggs

Murray Harrex
Peters Street
Majors Creek
NSW 2622



Environmental Assessment
Dargues Reef Gold Project
Reference 10-0054



23 October 2010

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the operational hours of the Dargues Reef Mine, run by Big Island Mining P/L owned by Cortona Resources Limited.

Cortona has repeatedly stated the mine will operate 24 hours, 7 days a week. Due to the mine site bordering the village of Majors Creek the noise, dust and the use of lighting at night will have a server effect on the lifestyles for many of the residents.

I have no objection to the mine as such, but restricting the hours of work above ground to 12 hours on Monday to Friday and 6 hours on Saturday's would greatly improve our quality of life. On a quiet evening sound carries hundreds of metres, due to amphitheatre of hills surrounding the village, I can easily hear the patrons talking on the veranda at the local pub which is over 1km away.

Cortona propose to hard rock mine 354,000 tonnes of ore and to process this on site using two ball crushers operating 24/7 (24hrs, 7 days a week) this amount of noise will not be acceptable being so close to the village of Majors Creek. The compromise of limited above ground works to 12 hours per day on Monday to Friday's and 6 hours on Saturday's for the first 12 months of full operational production is essential to gauge the extent of noise pollution and other effects that may endure upon our community.

If the levels are found to be acceptable then the operational hour can be reviewed and permitted if needed.

Another deep concern is the proposed extraction of ground water for mining use, how will this effect our residents and water users further downstream? Surely this will have to be monitored to reduce over extraction.

Yours faithfully

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure <i>Murray Harvey</i>		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) <i>10 0054</i>		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION YES / NO				
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons <small>* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the relevant period (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know or ought reasonably to know were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know or ought reasonably to know were made by an associate</small>				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
<i>N.I.</i>				
<i>N.I.</i>				
<i>N.I.</i>				
<i>N.I.</i>				
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date <i>[Signature]</i> <i>25/10/2010</i>				
Name(s) <i>Murray Harvey</i>				

Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

SUBMISSION RELATING
DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT
Major Application PA 10_0054

My husband and I have lived in Majors Creek for 36 and 33 years respectively, having purchased this property, which is located south-east of the proposed mine site 33 years ago. Despite much discussion with Cortona representatives, involvement in public meetings concerning the project, and after examining the EA we have serious concerns about the effects of this project on our ability to continue living here.

Our primary concern relates to water

I submit the following:

1. The mine seeks to use an extraordinary amount of water.

EA 4.5.5.2

para 1 States that 130 ML of water per year are required principally for processing operations.

para3 In addition to this 18.4ML will be required for dust suppression.

para 4 In order to release water to compensate for the project-related reduction of groundwater discharge to Spring and Majors Creek more water will be required.

Para5 The anticipated maximum project -related water requirement would be approximately 215ML/year.

2. Source of water

4.5.5.3 para 1 Indicates that this water will come from groundwater removed from Dargues reef mine; Snobs, Stewart and Mertons, and United Miners historic workings; and surface water from their harvestable dams.

Para 2 explains that 126ML/year would be required to be removed from the mine.

Para 3 states that 79ML/year would be drawn from the historic workings.

Whilst I appreciate that they must remove water from the mine, I would point out that **with the exception of the dam water, all of this water they are talking about is groundwater. As the mine and probably the old shafts are drained, water from the surrounding watertable will refill the space and also be pumped out, thus completely dewatering the land.**

4.4.4.2 states that **the rate of dewatering would be dependent on the rate of groundwater inflow to the mine. This indicates that there is no clear knowledge of how much water would be drained from the watertable.**

4.4.5.6 Explains the amount of water collected in harvestable dams has been calculated on the basis of 100 years of rainfall, despite the fact that the last 30 years have been extremely dry, causing drought, reduction of the watertable and significant reduction of dam water throughout the area. Some gullies of tree ferns having flourished for hundreds of years have died in that time.

3 Drawdown of water

4.4.5.1 Explains the mine will be 500m deep and

4.4.5.3 para2 explains that **the drawdown of water will be 1m extending approx 2.5 kms from the mine.**

I understand that it is not possible to measure this further afield but suggest that the water will not suddenly drop in one place but will be reduced to an unknown extent over a similarly unknown area.

Since the mine site is so close to residences and the 2.5 km contour would easily encompass much of the village, it would appear to me that this could threaten the whole ecosystem of this settlement.

4.4.5.3 para 1 point 4 indicates that Majors Creek itself will be dry (drawn down 1m underground) for 1.5kms as a result of the drawdown. And point 5 states that Spring Creek will also be dry in its entirety.

4.5.5.4 para 2 explains that the mining will reduce the flow of Majors Creek by 1.8L/second.

page 92 para 3 says that the reduced base flow of Majors Creek would rise to 2.1L/second at the end of mining operations.

3.Replenishment and release of water to replace dewatering

It is further stated that approximately 2.1L/s would be released into the Creek from commencement until 2 years after completion.

4.4.5.3 para 5 **Preferentially** water to be released into Majors Creek will come from harvestable rights dams. However 4.5.5.5 point 4 says that if this is not available, water for release will be sourced from the historic workings.

On what basis has the rate of replenishment of the groundwater been estimated? I understand that the computer modelling for this project is not based on local information anyway.

The EA has not considered the impact on springs and the streams that they feed.

My primary concern is that for some 80 years residents of this house have sourced water from a spring fed permanent water course, as we have for some 25 years. We are within 2.5 kms drawdown contour and therefore assume that that this spring and others will be affected.

All residents of Majors Creek are dependent on rain water augmented by surface and groundwater for domestic purpose , particularly in drought.

The amount of water Cortona seeks to take is nearly twice the amount required for the nearby Braidwood reticulated water supply (16kms away), but Braidwood already have severe difficulties in obtaining sufficient water. Although we now have a very wet spring, the best for decades, CSIRO predict more severely dry years ahead. Last summer the Shoalhaven River from which Braidwood gain their water supply stopped flowing. Similarly Jembaicumbene Creek not far from Majors Creek also stopped flowing and

Majors Creek was reduced to a small trickle.

If we are no longer able to source water from the spring we now use we may have to reconsider our viability to live here. Over 33 years water has been available to us from additional sources of springs which no longer run because of climate changes. This water is our only source of water remaining. We are pensioners and cannot afford to put down a bore, which may not be effective anyway since many bores in the area are not very effective and in some cases no water has been reached.

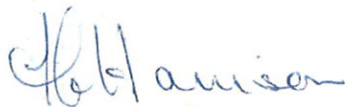
The spring water which we now access is good quality drinking water, and we are happy to use this for growing our organic vegetables which reduces our living costs.

The replacement water to be released into Majors Creek includes water from the old mine shafts which are known over years to have been highly toxic. Majors Creek itself contains, I understand, high levels of heavy metals, including Cadmium which is known to be carcinogenic, and is of course not drinkable. The chemicals used in the mining process may alter the composition of some substances and the resulting water being used to replenish may not be suitable for organic growing even if this was to be available.

Cortona has agreed to compensate residents whose bores are affected by this project, by increasing the depth of the bore etc. However, this is simply drawing more water from deeper under the ground. The replenishment of the Creek is also simply replacing water that would otherwise be there.

I don't believe enough has been done to investigate the effects of this project outside of the mine site itself and to recognise the potentially very serious impact it will have, possibly on the entire ecosystem.

The EA is not easy to interpret and I cannot afford the luxury of a private hydro geologist, I therefore submit this to you and ask for your deep considerations of the water issues I have raised, and their likely impact .



Frances Harrison
PO BOX 1
MAJORS CREEK 2622
Phone 48461136

27 October 2010

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure FRANCES HARRISON		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) MAJOR APPLICATION PA10-0054		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION (YES) NO				
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons * State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
				NIL
				NIL
				NIL
				NIL
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date Frances Harrison 27/10/10		Name(s) FRANCES HARRISON		

Mining And Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

SUBMISSION RELATING TO DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT
Major Application PA 10_0054

I am not for or against the mine but having read the EA on the proposed Dargues Reef gold mine I have serious concerns for our community. I have lived in Majors Creek on a small acreage on the edge of the village for 36 years. In that time I have watched the community grow from a station wagon school bus to a full-sized bus, have witnessed two generations of children grow and leave for the city. Presently a third generation of little ones are growing up. The passing of the last three elderly land-holders has brought about sub-divisions and a rapidly expanding diverse community, with zero unemployment. The growth in Majors Creek can only be attributed to lifestyle.

NOISE POLLUTION

Much of the data used by the proponent was collected from other sites, and does not take into account the unique topography of Majors Creek. The village centre is some 2000 metres from the mine, the proposed 24 hour operation, at the very least will produce a low frequency industrial hum destroying the present absolute quiet at night.

LIGHT POLLUTION

Not being a major centre, Majors Creek has very little light pollution at night, attracting locals and visitors alike to admire the night time display of stars. There is growing anxiety in the community that the light pollution from a 24 hour operation could dramatically affect the night time ambiance of the village.

ACCESS

The proposed T- intersection on Majors Creek Rd presents a real danger for all who use it. Given the number of fog-bound days and even weeks at a time Majors Creek experiences, I believe a North-bound merging lane and fog-penetrating lighting at the intersection are essential to avoid a certain tragedy.

SEWERAGE

I do not believe sewerage treatment has been adequately addressed given a work force of some 80 people.

WATER

Perspective

The town of Braidwood, population 1100, uses 120ML/annum and often struggles to meet demand in dry years, from the Shoalhaven River. The Dargues Reef Project proposes to use 215ML/annum almost twice Braidwood's annual consumption.

1. Cortona's modelling involves only the freehold project site. With little historic data of the local area available, data from other areas has been used and the village area has not been adequately addressed in terms of water security.
2. There are approximately 125 homes in Majors Creek, and this figure is increasingly rapidly. 27 use the creek to augment roof catchment in dry times, 25 use wells or bores, 4 use natural springs.
3. The spring that feeds Majors Creek has never run dry in the village's history and is the only reliable source of water in bushfire emergencies.
4. The EA does not adequately address spring or well water or take into account that 50% of the community rely on ground or surface water in dry times.
5. The EA predicts a minimum 1 metre drawdown of water, plus a reduction in flow of 1.8L/second for Majors Creek, from a base rate of approx 4L/second 24 hrs 7 days a week.
6. The drawing of water from a 500 metre depth in the mine seriously threatens all ground water in the village. Dewatering the land in this manner when so many rely on it is unacceptable.
7. The compensation offered in the EA simply means that, from relying on nature to provide our water, we will be forced to rely on a mining company.

SOCIAL IMPACTS

Majors Creek is a beautiful quiet village, situated on the escarpment of the Araluen Valley, with no major roadways in the vicinity, it represents an ideal lifestyle choice, for young families, retirees, and professionals alike. Having no articulated water or sewerage it maintains it's rural. pioneering feel. An influx of some 80 miners would dramatically change the village forever. We

simply do not have the amenities to cope with such sudden growth. Water, septic pollution, traffic and waste disposal would all present major problems for the community.

SUMMARY

In summary, I believe there are real problems presented to the community by the Dargues Reef Project. Although the majority of residents are prepared to put up with some inconvenience in the name of progress, there are limits. Security of water, peace and quiet, and traffic safety are not negotiable. Please make your considerations carefully; the lifestyles of approximately 200 people could be adversely affected by your decision.



Warren Harrison
PO Box 1
Majors Creek 2622
Phone 48461136

27 October 2010

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure WARREN JAMES HARRISON		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) MAJOR APPLICATION PA10-0054		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)				
You are the APPLICANT YES / NO		You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION YES / NO		
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons * State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
				NIL
				NIL
				NIL
				NIL
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date W. Harrison 27/10/2010				
Name(s) WARREN J HARRISON				

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Anne Homann (support)

From: Anne Homann <homanna@optusnet.com.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28/10/2010 6:38 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Anne Homann (support)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

As a regular visitor to Majors Creek and Braidwood visiting family I cannot help but notice the number of buisness closing after just short time. Opening the gold mine would be a great benifit to these small towns. Braidwood and Majors Creek would not have been settled if it was not for the gold mines during the 1800"'s Go Gold!

Name: Anne Homann

Address:
22 Montgomery Ave Miranda NSW

IP Address: - 110.140.12.85

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed
Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467
E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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From: Dominick ter Huurne <dth@beclau.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 11:23 am
Subject: Objection majors creek mine

Name: Dominick ter Huurne
Address: Lot 3, Halls Lane, Durran Durra, NSW 2622
Reference number 10 0054

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe there will be any benefit to the local community,
2. I do not believe the proposal has the interests of the local community in mind,
3. I believe the proposal will have a negative impact on the Majors Creek community in terms of acoustic and visual privacy,
4. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon my neighbouring communities in Araluen, Braidwood, Bells Creek, Riedsdale and Jembaicumbene,
5. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility is totally unacceptable,
6. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility will reduce the value of my property, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
7. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon the groundwater levels and aquifer of the surrounding locality, and i believe it will have a negative impact upon the communities of Majors Creek and Araluen and will have a direct negative impact upon the local businesses, individuals and families in the locality,
8. I believe the proposed tailings dam is completely unacceptable and poses a severe threat to the individuals, communities, ecosystems and natural habitats of all plants and animals that live (RL below) that of the dam, between Majors Creek and the coast.
9. I believe that the proposal will have a negative impact upon any indigenous site downstream of the proposed location,
10. I believe the increased semi trailer movements associated with the mine operations will have a severe impact upon the Majors Creek Road, the Araluen Road and the Kings Highway,
11. I believe that if Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona) were to propose to mine in neighbouring regions and process any of this material at the Majors Creek site that they should be prevented from doing this as it will only further the negative affects upon the local community at Majors Creek,
12. I believe the increased traffic movements associated with the staff working at the mine will have a negative affect upon the communities of Majors Creek and Braidwood,
13. I believe that if the locality surrounding the mine (any residence within a 5 km radius of the subject site), has an existing ambient noise level below 30dB(A) between the hours of 7pm and 7am, that ANY increase in this level is totally unacceptable, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
14. I believe that the amount of dust or airborne matter associated with

works at the mine, through plant and machinery, and the increased traffic movements along internal roads will have a negative affect upon the surrounding community,

15. It is my opinion that the proposal does not comply with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) and as such this development should require the Federal Governments approval before proceeding,

16. I believe the specific climatic circumstances (including the heavy fog patterns) have not been taken into account in the EA, and as such the assessment and its recommendations are incorrect,

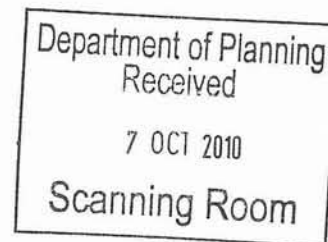
17. I believe it is my right as a resident of the locality to have my opinions heard and taken into consideration when decisions about any development in the area are made by any government body.

Best Regards

Dominick ter Huurne



Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
PO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



3 October 2010

Dargues Reef Gold Project PA10-0054

I am writing in support of the Proposed mine at Dargues Reef, Majors Creek NSW.

I have read the documents currently on exhibition, attended all the community meetings and information sessions run by Cortona Resources, and have formed the following opinions.

Cortona resources has addressed the Community concerns regarding roads, environment, noise and visual impact of the proposed mine.

They have demonstrated in their application a willingness to work with the Community. They have addressed all the issues raised in our Community survey and I am happy that they intend to continue working with the community through out the proposed mine's life.

A mine in the Braidwood district will bring much needed employment, and a flow on with money being spent in the district employing local contractors, purchasing supplies etc. Currently there is very little employment for our young people and they have to leave home to gain employment. Braidwood loses the majority of its young people each year once they finish school.

Cortona has listened to the community in planning the proposed mine site, some examples of that being the Portal, which is to face away from the village, and the Bund which is to be constructed around the ROM pad.

Cortona has already demonstrated a willing ness to support community groups financially which they intend to continue, and which is much appreciated.

Cortona has also stated that they are willing to participate in improvement to the Majors Creek road which is currently below national road standards. Some of this work has been offered before mine approval. This is something the residents of Majors Creek have been wanting for some time.

I fully support the establishment of a mine at Dargues Reef majors Creek.

Regards

Christine James

George Mobayed - Reference number 10 0054 - Dargues Reef Mining project

From: "Peg Job" <pegsbooks@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28/10/2010 10:04 AM
Subject: Reference number 10 0054 - Dargues Reef Mining project

From:

Dr Peg Job

67 Elrington St

Braidwood 2622

02 4842 2899

Dear people,

Reference number 10 0054 – Dargues Reef Mining project, Majors Creek NSW

I wish to express my concern regarding the proposed project.

It is not clear to me that environmental impact assessments have considered the impact of the mine and associated activities related to the water table and the construction of a dam on the plant, animal and human communities downstream from the plant.

- The Araluen Valley is a stone fruit growing area which relies on the water coming from the creek that flows from the proposed mining area; via the (tailings) dam, and the economic impact of reduced or contaminated water would be disastrous for the Valley;
- The environmental impact of reduced or contaminated water supply could be extremely damaging to communities of plants and animals, including some Threatened or Endangered Species that live in the Valley;
- These plants and animals have been the inspiration for the well-known author, Jackie French, a resident 4 km downstream from the proposed mine. Her economic contribution to the Valley and the wider communities in the district is substantial. In addition, her books teach the many children who read them about the environment and make an enormous contribution to their education about plants and animals and the history of the world around them;

- As the Araluen valley was a gathering place for Aboriginal people in earlier times, there are sites of heritage significance in the area, and these should be given consideration and care to ensure they are not likely to be affected;
- While Cortona has taken trouble to consult with the local community in Majors Ck, and, to a lesser extent, the wider local district, it is only recently that many of us have become aware that their lease is considerably larger, and may affect other villages and the town of Braidwood in the future;
- Nor has the company indicated the extent to which traffic to and from the mine (trucks etc) may impact on the only Heritage Town in NSW, Braidwood itself, where already the truck traffic through the town's main street shakes and undermines the historic buildings;
- The research so far conducted relates only to 42 square km in Majors Ck itself, with vague assurances that there will be no effect downstream (apart from asserting that the groundwater will 'recover' within 2 years').

It is in the interests of our community, and of the Palerang shire and NSW Government to demand further research by Cortona, covering a much wider ambit, to be published for discussion and debate by those most affected. It is also important for some indication of the future plans of the company and possible effects to be published, so that our community can be alerted to any issues and problems which may affect us in the longer term.

I urge you to insist that further research be done by Cortona, and the results published, before a final decision is made on this venture.

Yours sincerely,

Peg Job

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Simon Kaminskas (object)

From: Simon Kaminskas <goodoo@apex.net.au>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 1:10 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Simon Kaminskas (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Sir / Madam

I write as a private citizen, angler, kayaker and naturalist, to lodge my strong objections to the proposed Dargues Reef Mine.

I believe this proposed mine presents a massive and unacceptable risk to the general health and water quality of the Deua River ecosystem, upon which much native flora and fauna, as well as riverside residents, rely on. This fauna includes the Australian Grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) which is listed as Vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) and is listed as a protected fish in New South Wales under the Fisheries Management Act 1994.

The key concerns/risks are as follows:

- * The Deua River naturally experiences low flows in summer, and has also suffered severely from the exceptional drought in the south-east NSW for the last 4 years. Fish kills have already occurred in sections of the Deua River due to extreme drought conditions of the last four 4 years. I consider any proposal which leads to reductions in surface flows and groundwater inflows into the Deua River to be unacceptable as it will exacerbate summer low conditions and the extremes of drought.
- * The on-site processing and tailings dam present an unacceptable risk to the Deua River ecosystem and its Australian Grayling. Tailings dams around the world routinely fail no matter how they are constructed, especially in extreme rainfall events. (A 24 hour rainfall event of approximately 300 mm was recorded at Araluen in the early 1900s.) A collapse of a tailings dam will send a plume of fine sediments, sulphites and other pollutants into the Deua River via tributaries, and will be catastrophic for the river ecosystem and the Australian Grayling. It could lead to the extirpation of Australian grayling, the destruction of a hitherto beautiful and healthy coastal river system (valued by many people in the broader region for these values), and create a water supply crisis for Deua Valley residents and the Moruya township.
- * Industrial chemicals stored on work sites also have a long history of leaking into groundwater and rivers. Industrial chemicals stored on the proposed mine site will pose the same threats to the Deua River ecosystem and its Australian grayling as a tailings dam collapse.
- * Truck traffic will make the narrow and already dangerous roads even more difficult and dangerous to drive on. I consider truck accidents that will liberate processed ore, industrial chemicals or diesel fuel, or a mix of all three, into the Deua River system or its and tributaries to be absolutely inevitable. Such spills would again be catastrophic for the Deua River ecosystem and the Australian grayling.

For all of these reasons, all of which present clear and foreseeable risks likely to be realised, I urge that this proposed mine NOT be approved.

Yours faithfully

Simon Kaminskas

B.App.Sci (Hons)

Name: Simon Kaminskas

Address:

8 Octans Close GIRALANG ACT 2617

IP Address: - 210.193.179.135

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed

Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467

E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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George Mobayed - Dargues reef gold project - Reference number 10 0054

From: Sam Kidd <champagne.freddie@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28/10/2010 2:30 PM
Subject: Dargues reef gold project - Reference number 10 0054

Dear Madam/Sir,

I'm writing to you as a DESPERATE PLEA to oppose the Dargues Reef Gold Project. The grounds for my objection are as follows. Braidwood is the first town to be listed on the N.S.W. Heritage register, surely this is an extremely important point! We rely heavily on tourism for our economy and I feel that 18 trucks a day on an already notoriously dangerous road would be a disaster. It makes me sick to the stomach to believe that this proposal would benefit our community. The damage to our historic buildings, roads, traffic conditions, pollution from truck exhaust is a very real problem that has not been [completely] addressed. Tourists and locals don't want heavy vehicles every day for nine years! We fought so hard NOT to have the charcoal mine in Mogo in N.S.W knowing the traffic conditions would be dire if it went ahead for Braidwood and of course all the obvious negative impacts to the natural environment.

Please, why have a Dept Environment, Climate Change and Water when it doesn't protect us from what we fear. Our rights as residents of Braidwood, Majors Creek and Araluen are what is important. We don't want large corporations telling us what they want and need with little regard to the people that live and love this community. Please hear my voice it is one of many that wants to be heard. As a resident of Braidwood for 21 years having raised four children here, I feel qualified to object to a project that will not only jeopardise our way of life but our fragile environment our water our country and the air we breath.

PLEASE CONSIDER MY VIEW POINT IT IS GENUINE HEARTFELT AND REAL, AND NO AMOUNT OF GOLD WOULD CHANGE IT!.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Kidd
82 Duncan Street,
Braidwood.N.S.W.

George Mobayed - Online Submission from Sky Kidd (object)

From: Sky Kidd <envirosky@gmail.com>
To: George Mobayed <George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 3:12 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Sky Kidd (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

I am strongly opposed to the Dargues Reef Gold Project.

The report is substandard, it does not address the DGRs and uses poor data to create meaningless models.

The water quality and the water quantity in the catchment will be impacted on, the biodiversity values that we all love and share in the area are at risk and the community has been rail-roaded. And at what end?

I could understand if it was something tangible that humans require for our survival. Such as utilisation of a renewable resource. But gold is a mineral that is rare, and it is worth money.

The EA and Cortona shareholder reports show us all that this is about money. Cortona talks of expansion and newly tapped resource to shareholders, and expresses concern and throws money at a showground to the community.

We all know that this is stage one to expansion and to no end.

The state government needs to look at the 3A process and realise that gold, as a commodity cannot justify long-term environmental damage. We need to place emphasis on green jobs and renewable resources, shifting commodity driven markets across at the coalface. Say no now!

This will establish jobs, increasing our workforce skills in the renewable energy sector and coming to grips with climate change positively.

This outcome will determine how Cortona, or its inevitable successor expand across the region.

It will also determine the immediate fate of the environmental and social qualities of Majors Creek, the region and its catchment.

Sky Kidd
1129 Charleys Forest Rd
MONGARLOWE NSW 2622

Name: Sky Kidd

Address:
1129 Charleys Forest Rd
Braidwood NSW 2622

IP Address: 82.34.254.125.unassigned.soulaustralia.com.au - 125.254.34.82

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed

Planner - Mining & Industry Projects

P: (02) 9228 6467

E: George.Mobayed@planning.nsw.gov.au

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From: Danny King <dan_k_57@hotmail.com>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 5/10/2010 9:12 am
Subject: Online Submission from Danny King (support)

I will not go on with a lengthy submission. Quite simply I very strongly support this project for the following reasons:

1. This will provide a very much needed economic boost to the local economy both directly and indirectly.
2. It will provide employment opportunities to local people and in particular for young school leavers. It is generally the case that the majority of young school leavers have to leave the district to gain employment and this will provide a very attractive alternative.
3. The company is making every effort to ensure that the environmental impact is kept to an absolute minimum.

Name: Danny King

Address:
10902 Nerriga Road

Braidwood NSW 2622

IP Address: cpe-124-183-250-20.lns14.ken.bigpond.net.au - 124.183.250.20

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

CHRIS KOWAL

Eurobodalla Shire
land of many waters

Councillor

PO Box 208 Bodalla NSW 2545
0424 286 022
clrchriskowal@gmail.com



Dear Madam/Sir

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Dargues Reef Goldmine proposal currently under consideration in the Majors Creek area.

I wish to express my strongest opposition to the Dargues Reef Goldmine in the Majors Creek area.

The Dargues Reef Goldmine poses a series of threats and risks to an environment that has already been significantly degraded by goldmining activities. These are:

- **Native Vegetation Clearance** – The Tableland Basalt EEC exists in the area and will be impacted on, this not been accessed in the EA. Impacts are noted within the Natural Temperate Grasslands EEC and the preliminary listing of Tablelands Frost Hollow Grassy Woodlands EEC. Downstream the Araluen Grassy Scarp Forest EEC will be affected by decreased water tables. These vegetation type would be threatened and significantly degraded by site works and permanently impacted.
- **Bushrock Removal** – The disturbance of bushrock is not dealt with in the documentation, and as such is an inadequate response. It must be noted that bushrock removal is a key threatening process under the Threatened Species Act. Several threatened species are recorded in the Wildlife Atlas that utilise bushrock. The removal of bushrock is an impact that cannot be mitigated.
- **Local noise increase** – all the figures provided are modelled and not based on real data. Increase in noise will adversely affect neighbours and surrounding ecology. The noise impacts will decrease the tourism values and liveability of the township of Majors Creek. The proposal will result in sleep disturbance (EA-4-35) under noise enhancing inversion conditions which are a common feature of the local nighttime environment. A real time acoustic assessment (winter night) using real data is required to accurately assess and subsequently ameliorate noise impacts on the surrounding local residents. Processing and construction 24 hours a day in a small community is unacceptable.
- **Catchment degradation of the Araluen and Upper Deua Catchment**– the Upper Deua catchment is a geologically sensitive area with very fragile soil structures and has suffered an enormous amount of damage from historical gold mining, commercial water extraction (particularly downstream around the upper Araluen). In an area prone to very heavy rainfall events this has left a legacy of severe erosion and invasive weed infestations. For sometime now the landowner community has been working together to restore this important part of the catchment. Now, the Dargues Reef Gold Project is mostly likely to damage beyond rehabilitation these fragile areas.
- **Water quality Impacts** – Gold mining activities have serious adverse water quality impacts. These impacts can include increased turbidity and changes to water chemistry all of which can effect the health of the people and stock dependent on the long-term use of the local water sources (bores and surface water). These downstream water user impacts have not been addressed. Water modelling has used default and one off figures, and does not provide an accurate assessment of the hydro-geological picture at the mine site.

- **High risk of water contamination.** The EA does not sufficiently demonstrate how it will safeguard the Araluen and Upper Deua water quality and supply.
- **Poor water quality for environmental flows** – there is no indication of the water quality of the harvestable rights dams that will be released into the water supply. This is potentially fraught and can cause serious water quality and ecological impacts to the catchment.
- **High risk tailings management** – How does the proponent know that residual sulphides in the tailings will not oxidise? Permeability into groundwater is highly probable. This cannot be ameliorated.
- **Perception of conflicts of interest** – I understand that various donations, possibly from Councillor shareholdings and closed Section 94 Planning Agreement processes have raised questions in the community about the conduct of various stakeholders and the transparency of pre-approval processes.
- **High risk sediment basins** – are based on 100 yr rain events – which does not address the recent impacts on weather associated with climate change in the Southern Tablelands. Parts of the catchment experienced a 100-year flood event twice last year. The impact of this will be catastrophic.
- **Risk of contamination from chemical storage** – The storage is inadequate and can create a serious risk and make contamination likely. This is too higher price to pay.
- **Poor monitoring and inspection planning** – There is no baseline surface or groundwater monitoring (only point in time data). Proposed monitoring held quarterly is woefully inadequate when dealing with a known high risk of activity. If the proponent was serious about working with the community then water quality testing, piezometer testing, local bore testing, control structure inspections should occur weekly.
- **Transportation of ore** – The EA does not deal with the high carbon footprint of ore transportation by road for processing. Road maintenance costs, which will be very high, will likely have to be met by local ratepayers.
- **Impact on Braidwood** – The increased number of heavy vehicle movements transporting gold ore to Orange through Braidwood will likely have a destructive impact on the heritage town of Braidwood. Vibration induced damage presents a real threat to the heritage main street buildings, and increased heavy vehicle movements will impact on the visual amenity, pedestrian and local road user safety and the noise pollution within the township.
- **Large carbon footprint** - the EA does not deal with the extra energy requirements. It will increase local carbon emissions. The proponent should offset its energy use through sourcing/or generating renewable energy.

With regards



Chris Kowal

1st November, 2010

George Mobayed - 10 0054 EA Submission regarding proposed Dargues Reef mine

From: sophie lee <carmelita.72@hotmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 4:25 PM
Subject: 10 0054 EA Submission regarding proposed Dargues Reef mine

Dear Sir

please find following my submission regarding the above mentioned mining activity in my home town of Majors Creek, New South Wales.

My name is Sophie Lee

my property address is lot 34-36 Wilson Street, Majors Creek, N.S.W 2622

ph 02 4846 1322

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe there will be any benefit to the local community,
2. I do not believe the proposal has the interests of the local community in mind,
3. I believe the proposal will have a negative impact on the Majors Creek community in terms of acoustic and visual privacy,
4. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon my neighbouring communities in Araluen, Braidwood, Bells Creek, Riedsdale and Jembaicumbene,
5. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility is totally unacceptable,
6. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility will reduce the value of my property, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
7. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon the groundwater levels and aquifer of the surrounding locality, and i believe it will have a negative impact upon the communities of Majors Creek and Araluen and will have a direct negative impact upon the local businesses, individuals and families in the locality,
8. I believe the proposed tailings dam is completely unacceptable and poses a severe threat to the individuals, communities, ecosystems and natural habitats of all plants and animals that live (RL below) that of the dam, between Majors Creek and the coast.
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14. I believe that the amount of dust or airborne matter associated with works at the mine, through plant and machinery, and the increased traffic movements along internal roads will have a negative affect upon the surrounding community,
15. It is my opinion that the proposal does not comply with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) and as such this development should require the Federal Governments approval before proceeding,

16. I believe the specific climatic circumstances (including the heavy fog patterns) have not been taken into account in the EA, and as such the assessment and its recommendations are incorrect,
17. I believe it is my right as a resident of the locality to have my opinions heard and taken into consideration when decisions about any development in the area are made by any government body.

My name is Sophie Lee

my property address is lot 34-36 Wilson Street, Majors Creek, N.S.W 2622

ph 02 4846 1322

Mining and Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
GPO Box 39,
Sydney 2001

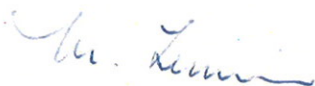
A submission on the establishment of the proposed Dargues Reef Gold Project
PA 10_0054

I, Marjorie Dale Lemin of 7 Wilson St, Majors Creek, NSW 2622, object to the establishment of the proposed gold mine at Dargues Reef, Majors Creek for the following reasons & concerns:

- 1: A mine operating 24hrs, 7 days a week in a quiet rural area very close to the village of Majors Creek.
- 2: Every Australian is entitled to quiet enjoyment of life. Our quiet enjoyment will be compromised by this mine.
- 3: Noise, dust and light pollution from the mine.
- 4: Extra traffic, both light and heavy on our country road. Inconvenience and safety being of great concern.
- 5: Little faith in the ability of Palerang Council to maintain the said road, a thoroughfare that is used by residents of the village & surrounding area to go to and fro from work and to our main shopping centre of Braidwood. There are no shops in the village of Majors Creek.
- 6: Effect on the water table and hence the future livelihood of farmers and residents of the area.
- 7: The crushing plant. What will happen to it once the proposed 5 years of production has come to an end? Will it be moved or kept in operation to crush ore brought in from other proposed mining sites within the lease area?

Please find attached my signed Political donations disclosure statement.

Signed



Marjorie Lemin

28th October 2010

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)		
Name of person making this disclosure MARJORIE DANE KEMIN		10-CC54 (DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT, MARGARAS CREEK)		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)				
You are the APPLICANT		YES / NO	OR	
		YES	NO	
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons				
<p>* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).</p> <p>* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR</p> <p>* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.</p>				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
MARJORIE KEMIN	7 WILSON ST MARGARAS CREEK			NIL
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date				
MARJORIE KEMIN		28/10/10		
Name(s)				
MARJORIE KEMIN				

Kane Winwood - Environmental Assessment - Dargues Reef Gold Project

From: "david lever" <david.lever@activ8.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 20/10/2010 3:26 PM
Subject: Environmental Assessment - Dargues Reef Gold Project

Name: David Lever, M.Env.St.

Address: 33 Del Ponte Lane, Araluen NSW 2622

Reference Number: 10_0054

Proposal is not supported unless Proponent commits to monitoring of possible impact of Project on Araluen water supply, for reasons set out below.

The Proponent's claim that the Project would have no impact on Araluen's water supply is based on the following arguments:

- (a) that while the Project would result in diversion to the mine of approximately 2.1L/s of alluvial groundwater that may otherwise eventually flow downstream to Araluen, the Proponent would, by way of compensation, discharge this amount of water into Majors Creek, the latter water coming from harvestable rights dams, to ensure it meets quality requirements;
- (b) irrespective of this compensatory water, the diversion of groundwater to the mine would constitute only approximately 0.8% of the total sustainable yield of unconsolidated aquifers in the Araluen Creek catchment;
- (c) that the Project Site is too remote from Araluen to have any impact, being around 20km upstream and elevated by over 500m AHD; and
- (d) that a study by the Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC) of water quality in Araluen in 2000 suggested a rapid response of groundwater levels to local rainfall (apparently interpreted by the Proponent as suggesting a poor correlation between groundwater levels and surface water flows around the Project Site and those in the Araluen area).

Arguments (a) and (b) are reasonable, but the evidence provided in support of arguments (c) and (d) is, at best, circumstantial. There is no logical connection between groundwater levels in Araluen and distances from the Project Site, nor between groundwater level and speed of recharge from local rainfall.

Omission of reference to relevant studies

The Environmental Assessment omits reference to a number of studies of water quality and quantity undertaken in Araluen from 1999 to 2002, namely:

- Sanders, Y. (1997). Preliminary Groundwater Study at Araluen - Draft Report. DLWC, Centre for Natural Resources Hydrogeology Unit. Draft Report No. CNR97.098, September;
- Willing, B. (1998). Araluen Groundwater Investigation Stage II Report. DLWC, Centre for Natural Resources, Draft Report, November;
- Pinner, A. (2000). Geomorphology and the Dispersal of Heavy Metals. A Study of the Moruya River Catchment, NSW;
- Metcalf, S. (2001?), in collaboration with NSW DLWC and the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), this study was conducted with the aim of achieving a greater understanding of the aquifer structure, flow regimes, recharge areas and contribution of 'old' groundwater in the Araluen valley. The report was prepared in fulfilment of requirements of the environmental science degree at the University of Wollongong. I understand that a copy of the report was provided to the Araluen Community Water Users' Association; and
- Pritchard, S. (April 2002). Araluen Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program: Preliminary Data Report June 1999 - June 2001.

Failure to incorporate the findings of these reports on Araluen water quantity and quality is potentially significant, particularly given the risk attributed to the Araluen aquifers by the DLWC in 1998 (DLWC, Aquifer Risk Assessment Report, April 1998). The DLWC then assessed the Araluen Alluvium/Fractured Rocks aquifer risk as 'high', in fact among the highest for all coastal aquifers in NSW. While the specialist report on groundwater prepared for the Proponent by Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants notes, in Section 4.5, that DLWC classified the Southern Tableland Granites and the South Coast Fractured Rock Aquifer as 'low risk' aquifers, and that Majors Creek was not assessed by DLWC, the report inexplicably omits reference to the Araluen aquifer risk.

The comparatively large number of investigations into groundwater quantity, quality and movement in Araluen were driven by the water problems experienced in the late 1990s by Araluen residents. which were in turn associated with the high level of assessed risk.

Monitoring of potential impact on Araluen water supply

While the Environmental Assessment appropriately proposes to monitor groundwater quality and quantity in the Majors Creek area following commencement of the mining operation, there is apparently no proposal to monitor any impact on the Araluen water supply. I recommend that the Proponent consult the NSW Office of Water on an appropriate form of monitoring, via the test bores installed by the DLWC in Araluen in 1998. This would enable assessment of the efficacy of the compensatory water proposed to be discharged into Majors Creek. Any legacy impact of the Project on Araluen aquifers should be isolated and appropriately compensated.

Kane Winwood - Online Submission from Philip Machin of self (object)

From: Philip Machin <machin4@bigpond.com>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 27/10/2010 3:47 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Philip Machin of self (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

The report is large, but it is not sufficiently comprehensive to account for the impact on native flora and fauna both locally and in the region. More work is needed to identify and explore the problems and manage the likely situation.

The environmental assessment claims to have discussed environmental impact with landowners and the wider community. It is therefore surprising the Native Animal Rescue Group (local licensed wildlife group) was not consulted to get an appraisal of the wildlife in the area. Majors Creek and Araluen region is particularly rich in native wildlife and there are significant impacts to consider.

An Issue raised includes ?Impact on Wildlife? (Table 3.1), but this does not appear as an item discussed with DECCW (Table 3.2), albeit ?Flora/Fauna? is listed. The reported discussions with DECCW (page 3-8) do not include consideration of the immediate impact on native wildlife through noise, blast, vibration and increased road traffic. The Native Animal Rescue Group has already seen significant disturbance of wildlife, with an increase in road kill, due to the minimal test mining that has taken place so far.

The risk assessment (Table 3.6) is not correct. Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) describes ?Potential Consequences?. The ?Potential Environmental Impacts? need to include the destruction of the local native animal habitat and population through actual habitat destruction (e.g. wombat burrows) and likely increase in disturbed wildlife with nowhere to go. The Native Animal Wildlife Group is already aware of disruption to native animal welfare and a consequent increase in death through road kill. The balance of native animal territory has been and will continue to be disrupted. How is this to be managed over the initial years of mining operations? The impact on biodiversity is also included under Noise and Vibration (for some reason ?blast? does not appear). The Potential Environmental Impacts directly affect native flora and fauna, but there is no mention of this. It is suggested the impact of vibration, noise and blast will not be limited to a local effect, but have a much wider impact regionally.

Table 3.10 is an Analysis of Unmitigated Environmental Risk. Again the report is not complete. The impact on native animals is being felt right now due to the recent test drilling and blasting operations. Disturbance of flora and fauna is a high (H) risk and should be treated as such. The disturbance of wildlife will impact on road safety, as more animals run across roadways. in a disorientated state and adjacent wildlife territories become disrupted.

There are a number of wombats in the mining area of operations. Whilst they are described as ?common wombats?, and they are not endangered, nobody knows how many exist, as the NSW research has not been done. Table 5.1 provides a draft Statement of Commitments. It is noted at 5.6 with regard to wombat habitat, that effort will be made to undertake ?ground disturbance? a few days before and then inspect all (wombat) burrows to ensure they have vacated the proposed area of disturbance. It is likely that this approach will take considerably longer than a few days and one wonders where the animals will go. Perhaps development can be staged and the area avoided initially during construction to allow the animals to move away over several months. And what about other native animals? Will they be ?relocated? too? The suggestion that native animals (in this case wombats only) will be saved is commendable, but the approach is not convincing.

Environmental Monitoring (Table 5.1, section 15) needs to include an assessment of the flora and fauna both locally and in the region prior to operations commencing and again afterwards. Only by doing a baseline survey will one know just how much impact the mining operation is having. If the impact is too great will the NSW Government remove the mine?s authority to operate? Perhaps one assumes all impact will be over and done with within the first few months? of operation. Is the NSW Government ?comfortable? with the prospect that native animals in the

region will be comprehensively disrupted with unknown consequences?

The Ecology Specialist Report only appears to cover the immediate ?Subject Site? (Part 2: Ecology Assessment p 2-15 para 1.3). This is unfortunate, as the impact of noise, vibration and blast will cover a much larger area (as indeed will be the loss of groundwater). This work needs to be repeated to cover all areas that will be impacted, including regionally. There is a need to include all native flora and fauna that will be impacted ? not just threatened species. How will threatened species be impacted regionally due to the loss of groundwater? Will any migratory native animals be affected locally or regionally?

On the matter of groundwater, I have found no consideration of mining project impact on the loss of groundwater beyond the immediate mining site area. As mentioned above in discussing the impact on flora and fauna, the risks go beyond the immediate mining site area. Surely there needs to be a comprehensive assessment of the impact of reduced groundwater on the region as a whole not just locally. Majors Creek and the Araluen Valley and surrounds are particularly rich in flora and fauna. The unknown consequence of removing so much groundwater may have extraordinary impact ?downstream?. A more detailed assessment is needed.

Lastly, if the tailing's dam breaches, what will be the impact downstream?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the report. I feel much more work needs to be done to assess the impact on flora and fauna and how this can be managed.

Name: Philip Machin

Organisation: self

Address:

152 Weeroona Drive

Wamboin NSW 2620

IP Address: cpe-58-169-44-121.ins3.civ.bigpond.net.au - 58.169.44.121

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

Kane Winwood

E: kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Powered by [Internetix Affinity](#)

Mr K Winwood
Senior Planning Officer
Major Development Assessment
NSW Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Winwood

Individual Submission Concerning the Dargues Reef Gold Project- 10 0054

I have deliberately kept an open mind about the proposed mine throughout the development stage. A series of social and environmental concerns were raised through the Majors Creek Community Liaison Committee and I looked carefully at the responses provided by Cortona both by letter and, more recently, through its Environmental Assessment report.

While Cortona has certainly tried to address a few of the concerns raised, I am not in a position to say with confidence that my major concerns have been allayed. Hence I must state that I object to the mine going ahead.

I request that the following "Conditions of Consent" be placed over the project:

Requested Conditions of Consent

1. That prior to formal approval being given for the project, the applicant be required to provide funding so that an independent environmental assessment be undertaken, or at least, a detailed independent analysis of the existing assessment be done.

Reason: There is inadequate data contained in the current EA

2. That the applicant be required to operate only between the hours of 8.00am and 8.00pm (ie 12 hours per day) from Monday to Friday's and 6 hours on Saturdays for the first 12 months of full operation, to gauge the extent of the of noise, dust and lighting interference levels that may occur, affecting the residents of Majors Creek. If the levels are found to be acceptable then longer hours can then be considered.

Reason: Majors Creek is a rural community. The operation of a 24/7 mining operation so close to the village will have a devastating effect on our quality of life. At the very least there should be a restriction placed on the hours until a full and proper assessment of the impact can be made.

3. That the applicant, in addition to the planning agreement with Palerang Council, be required to fund the building of an overtaking lane at some point on the Majors Creek Road and to upgrade the Back Creek road leading towards Captain's Flat as an alternative route for local traffic to Braidwood. Also that the applicant not be permitted to have its heavy vehicles on the Majors Creek Road during the hours of operation of the local school bus.

Reason: The increased light and heavy vehicle traffic on Majors Creek Road will be significant. I am very concerned that a serious traffic accident will occur, particularly during our regular periods of fog.

4. That the applicant be required to create an independently operated trust fund for the purpose of financially supporting a wide variety of Majors Creek community projects.

Reason: The impact of the mine is most significantly on the residents of Majors Creek; if we are to suffer its consequences, then there should be some tangible benefit provided. The applicant has indicated to the community that it is prepared to consider this proposal.

5. That the applicant be required to establish a comprehensive process whereby any resident who is adversely affected by the operation of the mine is adequately compensated.

Reason: Residents directly affected by the noise levels, ground and surface water reductions, structural movement in their homes (if any) etc should be adequately compensated.

6. That the applicant be required to enter into an agreement with Palerang Council to upgrade the current waste management site (the tip) at Majors Creek.

Reason: This would be a project that would substantially benefit local residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.



Peter Malone
3 King St
Majors Creek NSW 2622
02 48461343

Attached = Political Donation, Disclosure

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)		
Name of person making this disclosure PETER MALONE		PA 10-0054		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)				
You are the APPLICANT		YES / NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION		
		<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / <input type="radio"/> NO		
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons				
<p>* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the relevant period (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity/land not by you as an individual, include the Australian Business Number (ABN).</p> <p>* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR</p> <p>* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.</p>				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
NONE				NONE
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date				
P. Malone 1/11/10				
Name(s)				
PETER MALONE				

George Mobayed - Dargue's Reef Mine, Major's Creek

From: Angela Marshall <asmars11@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 26/10/2010 12:23 PM
Subject: Dargue's Reef Mine, Major's Creek

Reference number 10 0054

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the proposed Dargue's Reef mine project. I lived just outside Majors Creek for over twenty years, raised my two children there and we all derived immense personal and social benefits from living in and exploring that environment – we gained knowledge of the natural environment, the area's prehistory and its post-colonial history, including, of course, its mining history, and became familiar with its erratic meteorology and climate. The previous gold rushes have left incontrovertible evidence of the damage caused by past gold exploration and mining on such a fragile and dynamic environment. Some areas have recovered, others are only just re-knitting themselves and others will be forever sterilised by the soil erosion and disruption caused by mining.

Mining, tailings dams, and water extraction (the proposed quantities required seem to be extremely large) and water disposal (many mines in the area have required de-watering, particularly after a wet year, of water containing a cocktail of minerals and elements that can have consequences for many plants and animals) affect not just the immediate locality of a mining venture but follow drainage lines downhill and over the waterfall into the valley below. The inter-relationships of soil, water, vegetation, animals, birds and insects are not always immediately obvious, particularly when the numbers of some of the species are already very low or the individuals are seasonally rare (or abundant) or even, in the case of some birds, migratory. These all need to be studied carefully before the mine can be allowed to go ahead with confidence that this ecosystem can survive and even continue to recover from the 19th and 20th centuries' mining ventures.

The other noteworthy feature of the area is the extreme volatility of the rainfall, both in terms of annual rainfall totals but also, and more importantly from the point of view of the safety of a tailings dam, the nature and scale of the rainfall events. The rain in this part of the Southern Tablelands is not particularly seasonal nor predictable but has been known to occur as major downfalls leading to flash flooding. A single-walled tailings dam seems to me to be manifestly inadequate when one takes into account both the steepness of the terrain and the occasional rainfall events that have triggered floods in the past. In the past month we have seen the devastation caused by the failure of a tailings dam in Hungary after an unseasonal deluge – and, given that many climate change models predict lower rainfall but more intense weather events, a single-walled dam in a steep catchment seems to me to pose an unacceptable risk of downstream damage.

I request that a full and detailed environmental assessment be made of the proposed mine and its activities, including the effect of any mining, water extraction and/or disposal on both the immediate area around the mine site and on Majors Creek, the Falls and the Araluen River downstream from the site for a distance of at least ten kilometres.

Yours sincerely,
Angela Marshall
56 Hillcrest Avenue
North Narooma,
NSW 2546

Phone no.: 02 44763263

76, Burke Street

Majors Creek, NSW, 2622

26th October 2010

Mining & Industry Projects

Dep. Planning

REF: 10-0054

To whom it may concern,

As long term residents of Majors Creek, some thirty years, we wish to inform the Minister of our concerns regarding the proposed Dargues Reef Gold Mine at Majors Creek.

WATER

- >The proposed amount of water to be used and the subsequent drop in the water table.
- > Undertakings by the mine to replenish supplies do not make up for the natural flow of the creek, and the subsequent impact on the ecology of the creek.
- >We have a spring on our property which we rely on in times of drought when our dam supply is low. We would not want the drop in the water table to affect our use of the spring.

NOISE

- >Majors Creek is a very quiet village, a residential area. The proposed mine is on an industrial scale, with 24 hour operations planned. Continual noise at any level at night is an impingement of the enjoyment of life in this village.

TRAFFIC

- >The increase in traffic, especially from trucks on the Majors Creek-Braidwood Road will have a definite impact on local residents, not only those using the road, but Braidwood residents.

IMPACT ON WIDER ENVIRONMENT

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project on the grounds that no assessment has been made of the impact on the loss of groundwater beyond the two square kilometre radius of the mine, nor on the fragile and threatened eco systems below the mine.

I request more time for these and other questions raised by the Environmental Assessment to be investigated, including test bores 2-6 kilometres downstream from the mine site, to test the impact of drilling on the groundwater over a period of a year, to allow for variation in rainfall.

I also request that a detailed assessment be made of endangered, critically endangered and threatened flora and fauna in the four kilometres below the mine site. This also needs a year for

Completion, as some species are migratory and others, such as the endangered powerful owl, can only be easily identified in late winter when they are calling.

I also request that a detailed assessment be made of heritage and Indigenous sites 2-6 kilometres downstream from the proposed mine site and the tailings dam.

Yours faithfully

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Maureen McAuliffe' and the bottom signature is 'Peter Gillespie'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maureen McAuliffe & Peter Gillespie

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure MAURSEN McAULIFFE		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) 10-0054
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO		

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
				N.A.
				N.A.
				N.A.
				N.A.

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date MAURSEN McAULIFFE 27/10/10
Name(s) MAURSEN McAULIFFE

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details				
Name of person making this disclosure <u>PETER C. GILLESPIE</u>	Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) <u>10-0054</u>			
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)				
You are the APPLICANT YES / <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO	OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES / NO			
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons				
<p>* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).</p> <p>* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR</p> <p>* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.</p>				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date <u>Peter C. Gillespie</u> <u>27/10/10</u>		Name(s) <u>PETER C. GILLESPIE</u>		

Mayor's Ch.

P.O. Box 185

BRAIDWOOD 2622.

20/10/10

N.S.W. GOV. PLANNING

Mrs. Kane Winwood

Dear Sir,

Because of the mining application No. 10 00054 by Big Island Mining Pl or Cortona Resources, I am writing to you for an answer to the perceived problems I expect to occur when your approval enables the proponent to proceed with mining operations.

The statement in the Environment Assessment on page 12 states "Accepted formulae for the predicting air pressure and ground vibration generated by blasting. A charge of 105 Kc. would generate 5 mm/s P.V.S. at the closest residence." Is this the maximum charge used or can it be exceeded?

My home in the village is $1\frac{1}{2}$ Kls. from the site and during the exploratory stage vibrations were regularly felt though it was far from distressing. However, I do expect that regular blasting to produce 354000 tons or more will be a serious problem to the stone & older brick structures in various parts of the village. My concerns are the same as they were in the beginning and my

Questions are:- What assurance or protection will I receive from the N.S.W. Government that I will not sustain damage to my property over the stated time frame and life of the mine and if I experience damage to any structure, who will be responsible for repair or replacement to the damaged items and in what time frame.

Yours Sincerely

Marshall & Sandra
McCarron

Submission to the Palerang Shire Council concerning the Dargue's Reef Mining Project

As some members of the Council will be aware I have written extensively on mining history, heritage and environmental matters for well over two decades. Most of my work has been in southern NSW, and this region in particular. It is ironic that on the eve of the release of my next book, *Dust and Dreams. Mining Communities in South-East New South Wales*, that the issue of mining and the environment should again raise its head.

Over the last week or so I have noted the fierce debate concerning this project. Unlike many commentators I have visited the site. I did so following the request from my publishers that I give what is essentially a history book present-day relevance by referring to local mining developments and the environmental and heritage challenges that they pose. In *Dust and Dreams* I stated that the sheer size of many new mining projects and the availability of heavy hauling and extractive machinery meant that some mining operations, particularly open-cut ones, will leave a large permanent scar on the landscape, and that contamination from tailings dams will remain a serious environmental concern.

As the Dargues mine is underground the risks from the former are much less. Not so the tailings issue; the environmental challenges of the new mine are substantial because both it and the processing area lie within the Araluen catchment area.

I said in the book that the project was very much the future face of mining in Australia, which requires companies to consult with local interest groups and meet a plethora of regulations and environmental safeguards. In the case of Dargues the mining company has had several meetings with local residents and as a consequence has abandoned its original intention to use open cut mining and cyanidation. The company has also given attention to waste disposal and site rehabilitation, in particular the removal of noxious weeds, something that successive councils and landcare groups have been either unwilling or unable to effect.

Majors Creek is not, as some would suggest, a pristine environment, but a highly degraded one, not just by mining but over-grazing. Perhaps this is something that the Council should look at afresh as part of its review of this project.

I have now had a chance to study the environmental assessment report and wish to comment on the issues surrounding the placement of the tailings dam. It is noted that the dam is located atop the Majors Creek catchment area and therefore the Araluen catchment area, and that the wall will face downslope, heightening the fears of many local residents that a collapse of the wall would lead to a spillage of tailings into Majors Creek and ultimately the Araluen Valley. The parlous state of the rivers downstream from Queenstown in Tasmania are evidence of the damage that unrestricted tailings flows can cause. But of course we don't have to go that far afield to appreciate such damage. The collapse of the Captains Flat tailings dams in 1939 and 1942 led to the destruction of prime grazing land along the Molonglo River, and litigation that went on for almost two decades.

Today, tailings dams are much better constructed, and in the case of Dargue's Reef it is noted that measures would be put in place to prevent seepage and to divert surface water flows. I

also understand that there is a possibility that the tailings could be used to backfill the mine, thus reducing the quantity of tailings in the dam.

This all seems very responsible and far-sighted, but I am not an environmental engineer, and if there is any doubt at all in the Council's mind and by the relevant state and federal instrumentalities on the safety and appropriateness of this tailings facility then either the mine should not go ahead, or the location and structure of the tailings dam should be reconsidered.

I have written the above with every effort to base my views on a responsible risk assessment, and being fully aware of the economic benefits for the Shire that would flow from this mine. But the overriding consideration should be the safety and future of the environment and the welfare of its residents, some of whom would see their farms and homes at risk if the dam wall were to collapse.

I assume the Council will study the views of the State government environmental authorities prior to any decision about the mine, and in doing so I urge that the above points be kept in mind, and that every effort be made to ensure that environmental risks are addressed

Kind regards

Dr Barry McGowan

Heritage consultant and historian and Visiting Fellow at the ANU School of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

DA BARRY MC GOWAN

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

DA RQUE'S REEF MINE, MAYTAS CREEK (100054)

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES ☒ NO

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

YES ☒ NO

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
NIL				
NIL				
NIL				
NIL				
NIL				

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

DA BARRY MC GOWAN 2/11/2010

Name(s)

DA BARRY MC GOWAN

Dargues Reef Gold Project PA 10_0054 29.October 2010.

For such a major project, insufficient time has been given for close examination of the details of the Environmental Assessment by R.W. Corkery & Co given

(a) the key role of water issues including considerable impact on the alluvial & granodiorite aquifers, interference and reduction of the groundwater discharges due to the proposed

underground mine operation, dewatering and staging, groundwater dependent ecosystems

(b) tailings storage facility (TSF) (25 m high embankment) during and following completion, of mining related operations.

Extension of time for submissions would allow development of more understanding and logical questioning of contradictions and /or possibly misleading by omission, in regard to Moruya and Shoalhaven Catchment discharges (as apparent in Section 4.4.5) in relation to quality, quantities and impact, and contentions therein..

Absence of examination and approvals or otherwise for (i) the dewatering of the underground mining and (ii) the adequacy of the TSF containment structure or necessity for a secondary, both crucial features of the project, does at this stage, tend to suggest that other detailed comment on impacts of the proposal may be premature.

Questions on Waste rock quantities, management and implied total disposal from the surface hinge on estimates of tonnage, and volumetric measurement of loose as against solid rock., which is not clear..Hence whether there will be surface residue to clear.

Questionable also are the implied local socio-and economic benefits to communities such as Majors Creek and Braidwood which may be adverse.

Comment from Terence O'Brien

76 Pennant Hills Rd.,

North Parramatta.NSW

2151.

Kane Winwood - Reference number 10 0054 - re Dargues Reef mining project

From: "Cathy Owen" <cathy-owen@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 3/11/2010 7:11 AM
Subject: Reference number 10 0054 - re Dargues Reef mining project

Name: Cathy Owen
 Address: 593 Majors Creek Rd Braidwood 2622

I have never made a political donation.

I write as a concerned local resident living on the road exiting the mine site. This is a small rural community of farming families. Our children travel to school along this minor road. The proposed mine would increase the traffic flow of large trucks beyond any safe capacity of the road and to the detriment of our community amenity. Any consideration of the proposal requires careful traffic controls. Simply approving a widening of the road would not alleviate the safety and noise issues. This is an unsuitable site for this development.

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe there will be any benefit to the local community,
2. I do not believe the proposal has the interests of the local community in mind,
3. I believe the proposal will have a negative impact on the Majors Creek community in terms of acoustic and visual privacy,
4. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon my neighbouring communities in Araluen, Braidwood, Bells Creek, Riedsdale and Jembaicumbene,
5. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility is totally unacceptable,
6. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility will reduce the value of my property, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
7. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon the groundwater levels and aquifer of the surrounding locality, and i believe it will have a negative impact upon the communities of Majors Creek and Araluen and will have a direct negative impact upon the local businesses, individuals and families in the locality,
8. I believe the proposed tailings dam is completely unacceptable and poses a severe threat to the individuals, communities, ecosystems and natural habitats of all plants and animals that live (RL below) that of the dam, between Majors Creek and the coast.
9. I believe that the proposal will have a negative impact upon any indigenous site downstream of the proposed location,
10. I believe the increased semi trailer movements associated with the mine operations will have a severe impact upon the Majors Creek Road, the Araluen Road and the Kings Highway,
11. I believe that if Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona) were to propose to mine in neighbouring regions and process any of this material at the Majors Creek site that they should be prevented from doing this as it will only further the negative affects upon the local community at Majors Creek,
12. I believe the increased traffic movements associated with the staff working at the mine will have a negative affect upon the communities of Majors Creek and Braidwood,
13. I believe that if the locality surrounding the mine (any residence within a 5 km radius of the subject site), has an existing ambient noise level below 30dB(A) between the hours of 7pm and 7am, that ANY increase in this level is totally unacceptable, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
14. I believe that the amount of dust or airborne matter associated with works at the mine, through plant and machinery, and the increased traffic movements along internal roads will have a negative affect upon the surrounding community,
15. It is my opinion that the proposal does not comply with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) and as such this development should require the Federal Governments approval before proceeding,
16. I believe the specific climatic circumstances (including the heavy fog patterns) have not been taken into account in the EA, and as such the assessment and its recommendations are incorrect,

17. I believe it is my right as a resident of the locality to have my opinions heard and taken into consideration when decisions about any development in the area are made by any government body.

Cathy Owen
"Woodford"
593 Majors Creek Rd
Braidwood NSW 2622

Kane Winwood - Online Submission from Allan Perry (object)

From: Allan Perry <amperry1@bigpond.com>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 27/10/2010 6:21 PM
Subject: Online Submission from Allan Perry (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am concerned with the Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054) and other projects that have toxic chemicals (including arsenic) in the mine waste being stored for extended periods. The wastes are toxic to the wildlife surrounding the site and there is no way of stopping them from entering the waste. There is no fail safe way of stopping toxic liquids leaching into the ground and contaminating sub surface water passages.

We can no longer have restricted water use for primary production of food and then allow unrestricted contamination of water by miners just because they can pay more for the water. The water used by farmers does not become lethal to the wildlife that drinks the fluid!

If it means that the price of minerals goes up due to restricted mining operations then there will be more effort put in to recover the mineral from consumer waste products.

Before this, and any other future mining projects get the go ahead, there must be a process in place to stabilise the waste as they are generated by the miner.

Name: Allan Perry

Address:
109 Cheltenham Road,
Croydon NSW 2132

IP Address: cpe-124-183-122-57.lns15.ken.bigpond.net.au - 124.183.122.57

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

Kane Winwood

E: kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

Powered by [Internetrix Affinity](#)

Kane Winwood - Online Submission from Martyn Phillips (object)

From: Martyn Phillips <martjan@bordnet.com.au>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 21/10/2010 8:41 AM
Subject: Online Submission from Martyn Phillips (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Living on the Deua River downstream from the site of the proposed development I am uneasy about the effects of the operation on the surface and groundwater.

While I understand that processing of the ore will be undertaken off site (and such is welcomed!)I am uneasy about the effect of the operations on the existing mine site and whatever remains of the old processes there. There is scant information in the proposal detail about what chemicals and reactants will be stored on site and what effect these might have on the catchmant and its waters.

My major concerns therefore are of the effects that the proposed mine will have on the catchment and thus the Deua River and what specific safety arrangements will be provided to guarantee that there will be no adverse effects.

I am also concerned about the effect that the mine would have on the general amenity of the Majors Ck township and surrounding area. My family travels to the area regularly and are concerned about the visual and social disruption the mine would create.

The old workings are still very visable and I believe are in need of considerable restoration work. To permit another mine would seem to only compound the problems there. Will the proponents undertake the rehabilitation of the existing old mine site as well as restoration of the new site works?

Name: Martyn Phillips

Address:
2274 Araluen Road
DEUA RIVER VALLEY NSW 2537

IP Address: - 59.154.42.226

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

Kane Winwood

E: kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

[Powered by Internetrix Affinity](#)

②.

30 October 2010

Dept of Mining and Industry Projects.
Dargues Reef Gold Project, Majors Creek.

Ref No: 10_0064

To Whom It may concern

We are writing to express our concern over the certainty of a significant increase in heavy truck traffic passing through Braidwood's already busy main street, and along the King's Highway, as a consequence of the mining operations proposed at Dargues Reef in Majors Creek.

We live right on the H'way at the Northern end of the town, right at the first sharp 45 degree bend of the road and have to deal with many small accidents as is, as drivers, notwithstanding the 60 Km limit and all warning signs, overshoot the corner and end up in our yard. At this already dangerous bend, and all the turning points along the main road across Braidwood, the loud and disturbing noise made by the use of compression braking in a village environment is intolerable.

The increase in the traffic by heavy vehicles originating from, or going to the proposed mining operations, will add to the Kings Highway's already heavy traffic of over 3 million cars per year (RTA figures). Braidwood's main street, designed in the 1840's to accommodate horse drawn buggies!! is the arterial road to the South Coast from Canberra. Without any alternative option, it is already used by many large semi trailers as well as very large logging trucks, cattle trucks and the bumper-to-bumper flow of Canberra holiday makers.

One other point to consider is the Monkittee Bridge, just around the corner from us. This bridge is our only means of walking up to town, it has a single footpath only without any protection for pedestrians walking next to the road, and is used by many school children daily. Extra heavy vehicle transport on this bridge is a disaster waiting to happen.

In these circumstances:

Your figures for your truck usage on the highway seem to be very "light", but even with 10 semis or dog trucks per day, that is 20 trips per day over a 24 hour period, equal to about 1 per hour, at least.

(3)

According to the article in the Braidwood Times (27 October 2010), you anticipate "transporting 354,000 tonnes of ore a year, transported from the site by truck." If that passes through Braidwood that would mean 11,800 thirty ton trucks a year OR 32 trucks per day, one way. Sixty four movements per 24 hours, or 2.5 movements per hour.

Could Braidwood cope with that up and down its main street? Would you like all this heavy traffic down your street, where you live?

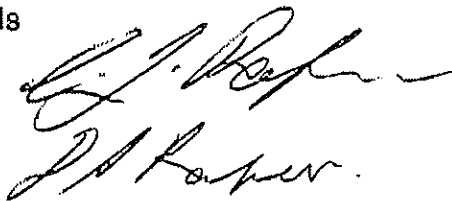
No.

On one of the most dangerous roads in the region, the King's Highway would become a nightmare to drive. Even "just" 10 extra trucks per day would contribute greatly to putting public safety at significant risk, where an already heavy traffic travels on roads with scarce overtaking opportunities.

And as for living on the highway as we do, this constant noisy movement, and increased traffic is of great concern.

If you wish to transport your product, don't do it through the Heritage Listed town of Braidwood - create and use a bypass to ensure the integrity and safety of Braidwood and its residents.

Regards



Mrs Cheryl Raper & Mr Don Raper
14 Solus St Braidwood. 2622

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclose statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

MRS Alexander Kallak

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

10-0054

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES / NO

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

YES / NO

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the relevant period (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any person with a financial interest in the planning application, OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
N/A	N/A			

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overhead if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

Name(s)

MRS. Alexander Kallak 29/10/10

Submission: Re. Proposed Dargues Reef Gold Mine – Majors Creek
Reference: 100054 - 2010

Name: Donald William Robertson
Address: Lot 3 Grey Gums Road, Majors Creek, NSW 2622
Contacts: Ph. 0419682066, email. donrobertson1@gmail.com

The basis of this submission relates to (a) scale, (b) impact on water tables,(c) environmental issues and (d) infrastructure and expansion.

(a) Scale

Whenever mines are located adjacent to, or within the context of small rural communities, there are implications as to noise, dust and general activity which significantly impacts on the quality of life of residents. In this case, the scale of the operation becomes a negative impact on the Major's Creek village. Despite assurances that mine operations will keep noise, dust etc. underground and despite the proposed construction of noise and visual attenuation measures, surface operation activity will never contain dust and especially noise, which will reverberate across the valley to the village itself and to neighbouring properties.

Outside the surface footprint, truck and other vehicle movements will spread noise along the roads at levels well beyond the normal small vehicle noise footprint. Day or night truck noise will continually impact upon otherwise the silence of a rural existence.

The impact of a proposed tailings dam again demonstrates the lack of attention to the development's scale and the impact of that scale 'spreading' to the neighbouring environment. The surface operations impact will be unacceptably significant, especially if the operations seek expansion approval in the future.

(b) Impact on Water Tables

To suggest that the removal of circa 66.2 megalitres of water from surface and underground tables (at depths of 1 to 10 metres), will have minimal or acceptable impact on the quantity and quality of the Majors Creek catchment is absurd. Also, to suggest that this impact will be limited to the adjacent aquifer cannot be taken as correct and should be tested. Whenever mining disturbs the immediate and fragile water table and feed-flow systems, such impacts invariably impact negatively upon surface and underground catchments well beyond the operational footprints. In this case, there must be detailed consideration given to this impact. There must be a complete study of the water table to the 10 kilometre radius points to assess the long term environmental impacts of such large scale water capture.

The rainfall for the area is unpredictable and variable. The village and its surrounding properties must not be 'left wondering' about the likely water level and quality reduction for the flora and fauna of the area. We cannot simply accept modelling that minimises water impacts, where there are plenty of examples where mine development modelling in NSW has failed and communities are now faced with permanent changes to water sources and

courses; eg the current debate over the Thirlmere Lake system and other mine-affected Southern Highlands aquifers.

(c) Environmental Issues

The EPA Act covers extensively matters of developmental impact. The main concerns of the residents (including myself) those impacts relating to noise (refer above) and the visual impact of the built footprint and the activity (visual and noise) generated from 24/7 operations. The visual and noise impacts may be curtailed to some extent by proposed attenuation works. However there will be no 'lid' on such impacts and they will be seen and/or heard at considerable distances, given the nature of the topography and its capacity to 'send' noise in particular, to the wider Majors Creek community. Intermittent noise is often worse than noise continuity, but both are unacceptable in this case.

Also, there are significant concerns about the initial and on-going disturbances to wildlife habitats, in and around the site. I am requesting a more thorough investigation of the mine's impact upon such habitats, adjoining nature reserves and the national park, not just at the footprint fringes, but well beyond, to corridors and migratory locations and habitats which may be under additional threat.

(d) Infrastructure and Expansion

The developers are claiming that they will be responsible for ensuring that there is adequate road infrastructure up-grading to cope with heavy and light vehicle movements. While there have been commitments to upgrades, these commitments appear ad hoc and fail, in my view, to take account of continual damage likely to occur, as mine activity increases. There is no doubt that the present development will be expanded once the ore body yield dictates commercial reality. This will mean further impact on carrying and intersecting roads. I am unclear how these on-going impacts are to be compensated by the developers and/or whether such general infrastructure will be maintained through contributions to Council and, whether Council will inevitably be forced to use other infrastructure funding to boost maintenance of roads in the future.

Don Robertson
30th October 2010
(emailed on this date)

From: angelo rossi <raame@skymesh.com.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 5:26 pm
Subject: Reference number 10 0054

Name: angelo rossi
Address: 288 charleys forest rd mongarlowe 2622
Reference number 10 0054

I object to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project for the following reasons:

1. I do not believe there will be any benefit to the local community,
2. I do not believe the proposal has the interests of the local community in mind,
3. I believe the proposal will have a negative impact on the Majors Creek community in terms of acoustic and visual privacy,
4. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon my neighbouring communities in Araluen, Braidwood, Bells Creek, Riedsdale and Jembaicumbene,
5. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility is totally unacceptable,
6. I believe the 24 hour per day operation of the mining facility will reduce the value of my property, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
7. I believe the proposal will have a negative affect upon the groundwater levels and aquifer of the surrounding locality, and i believe it will have a negative impact upon the communities of Majors Creek and Araluen and will have a direct negative impact upon the local businesses, individuals and families in the locality,
8. I believe the proposed tailings dam is completely unacceptable and poses a severe threat to the individuals, communities, ecosystems and natural habitats of all plants and animals that live (RL below) that of the dam, between Majors Creek and the coast.
9. I believe that the proposal will have a negative impact upon any indigenous site downstream of the proposed location,
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11. I believe that if Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona) were to propose to mine in neighbouring regions and process any of this material at the Majors Creek site that they should be prevented from doing this as it will only further the negative affects upon the local community at Majors Creek,
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13. I believe that if the locality surrounding the mine (any residence within a 5 km radius of the subject site), has an existing ambient noise level below 30dB(A) between the hours of 7pm and 7am, that ANY increase in this level is totally unacceptable, and if the mine should operate under the proposal as set forth, i should have legal grounds to claim against the shareholders, directors, managing directors and all others concerned with Big Island Mining Pty Ltd (or as we know them Cortona), the local council (Palerang), the State Government or the Federal Government,
14. I believe that the amount of dust or airborne matter associated

with works at the mine, through plant and machinery, and the increased traffic movements along internal roads will have a negative affect upon the surrounding community,

15. It is my opinion that the proposal does not comply with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (the EPBC Act) and as such this development should require the Federal Governments approval before proceeding,

16. I believe the specific climatic circumstances (including the heavy fog patterns) have not been taken into account in the EA, and as such the assessment and its recommendations are incorrect,

17. I believe it is my right as a resident of the locality to have my opinions heard and taken into consideration when decisions about any development in the area are made by any government body.

yours faithfully angelo rossi

George Mobayed - Fw: Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek ; ref 10 0054

From: "lado ruzicka" <ladoruz@braidwood.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 28/10/2010 7:18 PM
Subject: Fw: Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek ; ref 10 0054

----- Original Message -----

From: lado ruzicka
To: plan _Comment
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2010 6:57 PM
Subject: Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek ; ref 10 0054

We have lived in Majors Creek for more than 25 years, and support the proposal for the gold mine at Dargues Reef (Ref 10 0054).

Over the period of several years that Cortona has been prospecting for gold and planning this mine, the company has called several public meetings to explain its plans to the local community. In addition, Cortona has been in regular communication with the committee established in Majors Creek to oversee the mine proposal, and its full written replies to all issues raised by that committee have been circulated to the community.

Major concerns which were raised by the community - for example, reluctance to have gold extracted on site because of the potentially dangerous chemicals involved - have been met by the mine owners (in this example, by agreeing that the extraction processes would be undertaken elsewhere).

As part of the commitment to community consultation, before the mine's Environmental Impact Assessment was made public a month ago, Cortona and the independent consultants for that Assessment held a two-day showing of the findings at the Majors Creek village hall. The event was well publicised, and the consultants were available throughout to answer questions or provide additional information.

We believe that the process of community consultation has been impressive dropout the mine's evolution.

We also believe that the mine has much to offer not only to Majors Creek but the whole Braidwood district. Employment opportunities in the area are extremely few; most young people have to leave to get jobs elsewhere. The mine offers employment and - perhaps even more important - is prepared to provide training to suitable applicants. More generally, the mine is expected to contribute considerably to the economy of a district in which average incomes have historically been, and continue to be, very low.

In addition, Cortona has offered to set up an independent trust fund to finance community projects over a long term. It has already donated on an ad-hoc basis to a number of local projects, including the establishment of a children's playground and refurbishment of the Community Hall and other village amenities within Majors Creek, and the purchase of valuable historical artefacts for the Braidwood Museum.

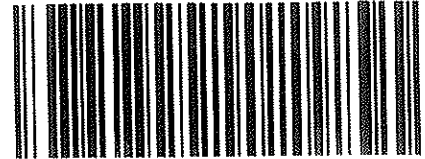
Expression of interest: We have a small (\$600) holding of Cortona shares.

Dr Lado Ruzicka, FASSA and Prof. Penny Kane Ruzicka, MSc (Econ).

The Old School
 15 George Street
 Majors Creek
 NSW 2622

=====
 Email scanned by PC Tools - No viruses or spyware found.
 (Email Guard: 7.0.0.18, Virus/Spyware Database: 6.16160)
<http://www.pctools.com>
 =====

Department of Planning



PMU006928

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S CORRESPONDENCE

PRIORITY:

<input type="checkbox"/> URGENT	Date due: / /
<input type="checkbox"/> Early (2 weeks)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine (3 weeks)	

ACTION REQUIRED:

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY:	
Director General (Full brief <input type="checkbox"/> Short Brief <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deputy Director General	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRIEFING NOTES FOR DIRECTOR GENERAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTENTIOUS ISSUES / SPEECH NOTES	<input type="checkbox"/>
NOTES FOR INCLUSION IN COORDINATED REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEPARTMENTAL ACTION (Letter of behalf of DG template – discretionary use <input type="checkbox"/>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
OTHER:	<input type="checkbox"/>

ACTION OFFICER(S) AND COMMENTS:

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Mining and Industry Projects

The Director General
NSW Government
Department of Planning
PO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

B & K Sanderson
4 Red Hill Road
Majors Creek
NW 2622

RECEIVED

29 OCT 2010

Tel/Fax: c/- 02 6282 2676

Mob: 0407 451 591

E Mail: azbrath@grapevine.com.au

Director-General

Dargues Reef Mine
Major Project Application No. PA 10-0054

Dear Sir,

Please find the enclosed joint submission on the Environmental Assessment for the above project and nil return forms for political donations from us both.

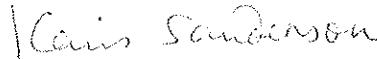
We have no objection to our submission with our names being made available to the proponent, other interested public authorities and on your Department's website.

Yours sincerely



Dr Brian R. Sanderson

27 October 2010



Dr Karis M Sanderson

27 October 2010

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT - DARGUES REEF MINE

Major Project Application No. PA 10-0054

Submission by Brian & Karis Sanderson

We have been impressed by Cortona's professionalism and its consultative and conscientious approach to the mine project, and have no pre-formed opinion about it. This submission nevertheless covers some general questions and items relevant for us as our home, like others, is very near the proposed mine and we border its extended envelope. Our landowner reference is missing in the present Environmental Assessment (EA), and we understand that this will be added and is not a problem.

The matters we wish to raise are as follows:

1. Economic benefit to Braidwood and region

The EA summary estimates the mine will contribute \$3 to \$7m a year to the local and regional economy. It could be that this estimate will change if the conditions and costs of the project are revised in the final approval process. Insofar as economic benefit is a relevant consideration in an environmental assessment, its inclusion perhaps argues for a rigorous cost-benefit analysis. The net benefit for Braidwood and surrounds would take into account the likely reduction in the growth of long-term residential building in the area as a result of mining and/or processing operating 24/7 for 9 years or longer.

2. Current application and possible follow-up projects

The EA ascribes approximately 9 years to the mining project. The project objectives further mention processing "additional mineral resources that may be identified within or in the vicinity of the project site". In addition an ASX announcement from Cortona (7 October 2010) describes a "multi-pronged plan (is) to progress the Dargues Reef ... with aggressive near-mine and regional exploration programs to underpin a long-term gold production business." It would be helpful to clarify how far, after the closure of the mine that is the subject of the present EA, the crusher and flotation plant would be used on site in the longer term, and operate 24/7 ? Extended use may have significant implications for water use issues and the groundwater recovery times estimated in the current EA.

3. Water consumption & impacts

The EA foreshadows the need for very large volumes of water, and the specialist study recognises some degree of uncertainty in both its availability and the behaviour of surface and ground water systems, and in the overall recovery time for groundwater levels in the area. It also acknowledges the likelihood of some bores being unusable for those who depend upon them locally, and mentions compensation for those affected. Procedures and costs for monitoring water quality, availability and responses including compensation could form part of any detailed contingency plan, which might in turn feed into a cost-benefit analysis for the mine. Since water related impacts may encompass a range of complex effects and causes it could prove simplistic for the EA summary to assert that the upstream position of Majors Creek village is adequate to isolate its existing water supply from all water-related impacts.

4 Noise and Vibration

The Report predicts likely noise and vibration levels during mine establishment and subsequent 24/7 activities, including from blasting, machinery operation and vehicle movements. It is not clear however if the as needs use of the hydraulic rock breaker will include its night time operation. The transmission of sound and vibration through the air and ground strata, and the effects in and upon buildings are not easy to predict; this is presumably reflected in the range of locations nominated for monitoring. For houses closest to the mine in particular, levels of noise and vibration monitored throughout operations should include a frequency analysis, since this affects both transmission and the ear's response. In addition there should be reliable published procedures for reporting, and for remedial action in case regulatory levels are exceeded.

TRT Green

Kevin Sanderson

Political donations disclosure statement



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

29 JUL 2010

Director-General

Office use only:

Date received: ____/____/____

Planning application no. _____

This form may be used to make a political donations disclosure under section 147(3) of the *Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979* for applications or public submissions to the Minister or the Director-General.

Please read the following information before filling out the Disclosure Statement on pages 3 and 4 of this form. Also refer to the 'Glossary of terms' provided overleaf (for definitions of terms in *italics* below). Once completed, please attach the completed declaration to your planning application or submission.

Explanatory information

Making a planning application or a public submission to the Minister or the Director-General

Under section 147(3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* ('the Act') a person:

- (a) who makes a *relevant planning application* to the Minister or the Director-General is required to disclose all *reportable political donations* (if any) made within the *relevant period* to anyone by any *person with a financial interest* in the application, or
- (b) who makes a *relevant public submission* to the Minister or the Director-General in relation to the application is required to disclose all *reportable political donations* (if any) made within the *relevant period* to anyone by the person making the submission or any *associate of that person*.

How and when do you make a disclosure?

The disclosure to the Minister or the Director-General of a *reportable political donation* under section 147 of the Act is to be made:

- (a) in, or in a statement accompanying, the relevant planning application or submission if the donation is made before the application or submission is made, or
- (b) if the donation is made afterwards, in a statement of the person to whom the relevant planning application or submission was made within 7 days after the donation is made.

What information needs to be included in a disclosure?

The information requirements of a disclosure of reportable political donations are outlined in section 147(9) of the Act.

Pages 3 and 4 of this document include a Disclosure Statement Template which outlines the information requirements for disclosures to the Minister or to the Director-General of the Department of Planning.

Note: A separate Disclosure Statement Template is available for disclosures to councils.

Warning: A person is guilty of an offence under section 125 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in connection with the obligations under section 147 only if the person fails to make a disclosure of a political donation or gift in accordance with section 147 that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, was made and is required to be disclosed under section 147.

The maximum penalty for any such offence is the maximum penalty under Part 6 of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* for making a false statement in a declaration of disclosures lodged under that Part.

Note: The maximum penalty is currently 200 penalty units (currently \$22,000) or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

Glossary of terms (under section 147 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*)

gift means a gift within the meaning of Part 6 of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981*. Note. A gift includes a gift of money or the provision of any other valuable thing or service for no consideration or inadequate consideration.

Note: Under section 84(1) of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* gift is defined as follows:

gift means any disposition of property made by a person to another person, otherwise than by will, being a disposition made without consideration in money or money's worth or with inadequate consideration, and includes the provision of a service (other than volunteer labour) for no consideration or for inadequate consideration.

local councillor means a councillor (including the mayor) of the council of a local government area.

relevant planning application means:

- a) a formal request to the Minister, a council or the Director-General to initiate the making of an environmental planning instrument or development control plan in relation to development on a particular site, or
 - b) a formal request to the Minister or the Director-General for development on a particular site to be made State significant development or declared a project to which Part 3A applies, or
 - c) an application for approval of a concept plan or project under Part 3A (or for the modification of a concept plan or of the approval for a project), or
 - d) an application for development consent under Part 4 (or for the modification of a development consent), or
 - e) any other application or request under or for the purposes of this Act that is prescribed by the regulations as a relevant planning application,
- but does not include:
- f) an application for (or for the modification of) a complying development certificate, or
 - g) an application or request made by a public authority on its own behalf or made on behalf of a public authority, or
 - h) any other application or request that is excluded from this definition by the regulations.

relevant period is the period commencing 2 years before the application or submission is made and ending when the application is determined.

relevant public submission means a written submission made by a person objecting to or supporting a relevant planning application or any development that would be authorised by the granting of the application.

reportable political donation means a reportable political donation within the meaning of Part 6 of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* that is required to be disclosed under that Part. Note. Reportable political donations include those of or above \$1,000.

Note: Under section 86 of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* reportable political donation is defined as follows:

86 Meaning of "reportable political donation"

- (1) For the purposes of this Act, a reportable political donation is:
 - (a) in the case of disclosures under this Part by a party, elected member, group or candidate—a political donation of or exceeding \$1,000 made to or for the benefit of the party, elected member, group or candidate, or
 - (b) in the case of disclosures under this Part by a major political donor—a political donation of or exceeding \$1,000:
 - (i) made by the major political donor to or for the benefit of a party, elected member, group or candidate, or
 - (ii) made to the major political donor.
- (2) A political donation of less than an amount specified in subsection (1) made by an entity or other person is to be treated as a reportable political donation if that and other separate political donations made by that entity or other person to the same party, elected member, group, candidate or person within the same financial year (ending 30 June) would, if aggregated, constitute a reportable political donation under subsection (1).
- (3) A political donation of less than an amount specified in subsection (1) made by an entity or other person to a party is to be treated as a reportable political donation if that and other separate political donations made by that entity or person to an associated party within the same financial year (ending 30 June) would, if aggregated, constitute a reportable political donation under subsection (1). This subsection does not apply in connection with disclosures of political donations by parties.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), parties are associated parties if endorsed candidates of both parties were included in the same group in the last periodic Council election or are to be included in the same group in the next periodic Council election.

a person has a financial interest in a relevant planning application if:

- a) the person is the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application is made, or
- b) the person is an owner of the site to which the application relates or has entered into an agreement to acquire the site or any part of it, or
- c) the person is associated with a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) and is likely to obtain a financial gain if development that would be authorised by the application is authorised or carried out (other than a gain merely as a shareholder in a company listed on a stock exchange), or
- d) the person has any other interest relating to the application, the site or the owner of the site that is prescribed by the regulations.

persons are associated with each other if:

- a) they carry on a business together in connection with the relevant planning application (in the case of the making of any such application) or they carry on a business together that may be affected by the granting of the application (in the case of a relevant planning submission), or
- b) they are related bodies corporate under the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
- c) one is a director of a corporation and the other is any such related corporation or a director of any such related corporation, or
- d) they have any other relationship prescribed by the regulations.

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) PAIC-0054			
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)					
You are the APPLICANT		YES / NO	OR	You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION	
				YES	NO
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons					
* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.					
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation	
RICHAUN R. WANDERSON	2 RED HILL ROAD MADGETT GREEN NSW 2112	NONE	N/A	NONE	
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.					
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.					
Signature(s) and Date [Signature] 27/10/10					
Name(s) RICHAUN R. WANDERSON					

Cont...

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation

Political donations disclosure statement



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning
RECEIVED

Office use only:

29 OCT 2010

Date received: ____/____/____

Planning application no: Director-General

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How and when do you make a disclosure?

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 - c) an application for approval of a concept plan or project under Part 3A (or for the modification of a concept plan or of the approval for a project), or
 - d) an application for development consent under Part 4 (or for the modification of a development consent), or
 - e) any other application or request under or for the purposes of this Act that is prescribed by the regulations as a relevant planning application,
- but does not include:
- f) an application for (or for the modification of) a complying development certificate, or
 - g) an application or request made by a public authority on its own behalf or made on behalf of a public authority, or
 - h) any other application or request that is excluded from this definition by the regulations.

relevant period is the period commencing 2 years before the application or submission is made and ending when the application is determined.

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 - (i) made by the major political donor to or for the benefit of a party, elected member, group or candidate, or
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- a) the person is the applicant or the person on whose behalf the application is made, or
- b) the person is an owner of the site to which the application relates or has entered into an agreement to acquire the site or any part of it, or
- c) the person is associated with a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) and is likely to obtain a financial gain if development that would be authorised by the application is authorised or carried out (other than a gain merely as a shareholder in a company listed on a stock exchange), or
- d) the person has any other interest relating to the application, the site or the owner of the site that is prescribed by the regulations.

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- a) they carry on a business together in connection with the relevant planning application (in the case of the making of any such application) or they carry on a business together that may be affected by the granting of the application (in the case of a relevant planning submission), or
- b) they are related bodies corporate under the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth, or
- c) one is a director of a corporation and the other is any such related corporation or a director of any such related corporation, or
- d) they have any other relationship prescribed by the regulations.

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Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure <i>Karis Sanderson</i>		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) <i>PA 10-0054</i>		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION YES / NO				
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons • State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). • If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR • If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
<i>Karis Sanderson</i>	<i>4, Red Hill Rd Majors Creek NSW 2622</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>none</i>
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date <i>Karis Sanderson 27th October 2010</i>				
Name(s) <i>KARIS SANDERSON</i>				

George Mobayed - Objection to Dargues Reef mining Ref. 10 0054

From: "Mark Selmes" <The.Forest@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 29/10/2010 10:26 AM
Subject: Objection to Dargues Reef mining Ref. 10 0054

The Department of Planning,
 Ref. 10
 0054

Mark Selmes

PO Box 47

Taralga NSW

2580

The.forest@bigpond.com

29th October 2010

I object most strongly to the proposed Dargues Reef mining project.
 I am aware of the importance of this area for a number of threatened (and more common) species.
 In particular :
 Zieria adnophora- this plant was once considered extinct , and is now only known from 2
 populations less than 100 metres apart in this area.
 NPW NSW 2001 “Due to the specific habitat required , it is unlikely the species will ever expand”

Eucalyptus kartzoffiana- changes to available groundwater will effect chances of survival.

Powerful owl- these birds of prey require a large area of habitat and show a high fidelity to an area,
 and cannot just simply move on, when available habitat is disappearing.

Barking owls. The recently listed Scarlet robin.

I am also informed that Gang gang cockatoos, the Red goshawk and Little eagle all nest at times in
 the area below the mine site and that there is evidence of Spotted Tail Quolls in this locality.

It is well known that gold mining activities use large amounts of water and have been known to
 change the chemical composition of surrounding soils and effect groundwater flows. Long term
 changes to the hydrology of the area would be expected to have impacts on surrounding sensitive
 vegetation and adverse environmental impacts for local ecosystems and a chain of interdependent
 species.

May I ask if such cumulative impacts have been considered in any environmental assessment? If
 not , then I would ask that a more detailed assessment be required and that the opinion of the
 Federal Government be sought over matters relating to the EPBC act. Has concurrence from the
 Threatened Species unit in DECCW been sought? What of the various Water Catchment
 Authorities?

Considering such sensitive biodiversity components in this area and the limits to our knowledge of

long term impact I would call for the application of a precautionary approach in its consideration. Loss of biodiversity is currently reaching critical levels, with some scientists stating that we are possible experiencing a “sixth wave “ of extinctions. These impacts were considered so critical that the United Nations has declared 2010 The International Year of Biodiversity.

Mining in an area surrounded by National parks and threatened species may profit the mining company, but the long term effects will come at a much greater cost to the environment and the broader community.

I would ask the Planning Committee to take into account our natural heritage (documented through the tales of local author Jackie French) when considering this application and reject it as an inappropriate activity in such an area.

I thank you for your time in considering this submission.

Regards

Mark Selmes

Kane Winwood - Online Submission from John & Kate Spring (other)

From: John & Kate Spring <hotsprings@grapevine.net.au>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 15/10/2010 10:05 AM
Subject: Online Submission from John & Kate Spring (other)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

We would like to state our views in regard to the Dargues Reef mining proposal by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd. We are positive about the proposed mine and in principle do not oppose it and recognise that there are social and economic benefits resulting from a development such as this.

Our property is Lot 5, DP1093136, about 40 hectares in size, to the south west of Shingle House Creek. It is referred to in the Environmental Assessment as land reference 100. We were successful in having the property gazetted a Wildlife Refuge in November 2007 and in April 2009 obtained building approval from Palerang Council and we plan to build in 2011. The approved house site is approximately 1400m from the centre of the ROM pad and has clear line of sight to most of the proposed surface activities of the mine. It will be one of the closest houses to the proposed mine and is located between the 35dB and 40dB noise contour during inversion conditions.

It seems that the Environmental Assessment did not address the effect the mine would have on our property. The visual impact and the anticipated noise levels will significantly compromise the amenity of our peaceful location. This oversight of the assessment process could be addressed by Big Island Mining Pty Ltd implementing the following measures:-

- 1/ Continuous long-term monitoring and reporting of sound levels at our house site.
- 2/ More extensive sound bunding at the ROM pad.
- 3/ Tree planting measures at the mine site and/or on our property to minimise the visual impact of the development.

We would like to liaise with the company to achieve a positive outcome, not only for us to enjoy the peaceful retirement we had planned, but for the benefit of the whole Majors Creek community.

Name: John & Kate Spring

Address:
24 Carr Crescent
Wanniassa ACT 2903

IP Address: - 110.144.252.219

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

Kane Winwood

E: kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au

From: Arno and Nel Struzina <astruz@bigpond.com>
To: Kane Winwood <kane.winwood@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 19/10/2010 12:33 pm
Subject: Online Submission from Arno and Nel Struzina of nil (object)

submission re Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054) - Exhibition

There can be little doubt in anybodies mind that
the proposed mine will have significant impact
on the environment,the residents and our lives
in Majors Creek.

A court in Yass came to this conclusion in the 1980s and ruled against a mining proposal then.

Now we are again facing the possibilty of mining.

The Eis claims impact to be within permissible limits.

We believe the proposed mine will seriously affect

the life of the people of MAJORS CREEK and surrounding areas detrimentaly.

The air we breathe,the water we drink,the rural peace and quiet we now enjoy would all be considerably
downgraded.Noise impact at all stages from traffic, explosions ,processing and
operation will be considerable.

Also threatened is the water supply for the people in

areas as far distant as the Coast line between

Batemans Bay and Narooma.

The proposed tailings dam will contain heavy metals.A Major rain event as we see now frequently in
Australia and overseas could result in the escape of these contaminants into the Deua and onto Moruya
river which is the water supply for a population of over 100,000

people.

Which of the two figures for the project duration shown in the Eis are correct

Up to 5 years or 9.

Name: Arno and Nel Struzina
Organisation: nil

Address:
16 seymour st

majors creek

2622

IP Address: cpe-60-229-9-102.ins3.ken.bigpond.net.au - 60.229.9.102

Submission for Job: #3871 Dargues Reef Gold Project (PA 10_0054)
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3871

Site: #2222 Dargues Reef Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2222

George Mobayed - Submission on Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek

From: Bryan Sullivan <sullivan@braidwood.net.au>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/11/2010 3:13 PM
Subject: Submission on Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek
Attachments: Dargues Creek Mine Submission_Drake.pdf; Dargues Creek Mine Submission_Drake.pdf

Reference: 10_0054

Submission on Dargues Reef Mine, Majors Creek

From:
 Bryan Sullivan
 381 Majors Creek Mountain Road
 Araluen Valley
 Postal Address: PO Box 63 Braidwood 2622

To Whom It May Concern

I object to the opening of the Dargues Reef Mine.

I am the owner of the nearest commercial orchard to the proposed mine, only four kilometres downstream. I am also the holder of an irrigation licence for three of the four properties.

I object to the mine on the following grounds:

1. No investigation has been made of the impact of the proposed mine on the flora, fauna or orchard and market garden businesses directly downstream, even though investigation has been made of the areas that are least likely to be affected by the mine.
2. Cortona has repeatedly ignored professional hydrological assessments of the possible impact of the mine on the Araluen valley, and has not included that material in its assessment.
3. Despite a meeting with myself and Cortona on 18 October 2010 Cortona has failed in its agreement to provide me with a transcript of that meeting, and its agreement to provide a letter agreeing to two test bores on my property and the Major's Creek National Park Nature Reserve. At that meeting the experts employed to do the EA expressed surprise at a commercial business so close to the mine, and agreed that no assessment of the area beyond the two kilometre radius tested could be reliable as there are so many variables.

Before any consideration is given to approving the Dargues Reef Mine, I submit that:

- A further Environmental Assessment be requested, with a hydrological report and study of six kilometres downstream from the proposed mine, with particular attention to the region six kilometres from the proposed mine site. That a secondary wall be erected below the tailings dam if the mine is given approval
- That Cortona pay for independent flora and fauna studies of the Major's Creek National Park Reserve, to document the endangered and critically endangered species at risk; or if not, that we be given a year to commission such studies. (The year is necessary as some of the endangered bird species are migratory, and the powerful owl can only be reliably recorded during late winter when its call can be heard. The grey-headed flying fox is also seen only towards the end of summer.)
- that Cortona supply the clarifications requested in the submission by Jessica Drake, Soil Science Advisor, The Fenner School ANA, attached to this submission, before any further consideration is made to the Dargues's Reef Proposal

12. If, despite objections, the proposed mine is given permission to proceed, I ask that:

1. A series of test bores be established in the region six kilometres below the mine site, and that before mining takes place assessments are made of the normal groundwater fluctuations over a period of a year.
 . That data from the test bores be collected while all mining operations are in place, and made available to myself and all other interested parties
2. That an independent hydrologist be employed to assess the ground water reading. If, in their opinion, mining operations are causing a drop in groundwater below the mine, then those operations will cease and a remediation plan will be put into effect in consultation with the relevant government departments and all landowners affected.

Note: as Cortona have indicated that they are confident that there will be no impact beyond two kilometres of the mine site, they can have no objection to a condition asking for remediation if such an effect occurs.

3. Alternate water sources be purchased instead of using water from an already endangered catchment. This could

include the trucking in of water from areas of greater water as well as the smaller capacity from the capture of clean storm flow run-off from extensive roof areas that might be constructed over mine facilities such as the tailings stock-pile.

4. All water returned to the Major's Creek and Araluen aquifers from the Dargues Reef Mine be tested on a daily basis and the levels of pollution made available to all who have made submissions to this enquiry. If these levels are shown to be higher than the levels in the EA then all work should cease until the relevant NSW and Federal Departments can assure the community that the water is safe for residents to drink, wash in, use on the orchards and market gardens, and for the continuation of the animals and plants downstream.

5. That an adequate bond be required to compensate landowners and all with a commercial interest in the area below the Dargues Reef mine. This will need to cover not just the an estimated \$Au3 million per annum income already generated in the Araluen Valley, but other personal and financial loss, including loss of value of properties and businesses. The value of land and businesses in the eight kilometres just below the mine alone amount to more than \$AU 20 million, and this is without costs of remediation and long term business and personal loss. This compensation should not be limited to those in the catchment below the mine, but to all who have a demonstrated financial and personal interest in the land and water system affected.

6. That if whichever company is currently mining at Dargue's Reef goes into liquidation before rehabilitation and compensation can occur, and if the cost of compensation and rehabilitation is more than the bond entered into by the company at the Department of Planning's request, then the NSW Government accept full responsibility for such compensation and rehabilitation necessary for any negative effects of the proposed Dargue's Reef Mine included in this and other submissions.

Mining and Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
G.P.O. Box 39
SYDNEY NSW. 2001

'Braemar',
155 Wallaces Gap Road,
Majors Creek NSW 2622
October 26 2010

Reference 10_0054 - Dargues Reef Gold Project
Majors Creek N.S.W.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to put forward my concerns regarding the above project at Majors Creek.

My main concern is the need for a water resource in projected work at the site. The past two decades have resulted in a spiral down of the water table in the district. What was a permanent spring on my property dried up in the late 1980s. This situation is a familiar one in the area. Considering the amount of water required for the project, it is questionable that recycled water, as claimed by the mining company Cortona will be an adequate resource. Or will the already threatened water table be in further jeopardy? Have the residents who have sunk bores at their own expense been considered?

A second concern is the proposed tailings dam. In past records this district has experienced very heavy rainfalls at 25 year intervals. If a tailings dam containing dangerous life threatening chemicals enters the Majors Creek this overflow from a dam will have far-reaching consequences. Downstream it will mean devastation of the extensive peach orchards at Araluen. These orchards contribute at least 3 million dollars to our economy. Further on are numerous small business enterprises along the Deua River, all the way to Moruya and the Pacific Ocean. Is the

livelihood of many a consideration in this proposed project?

I have been instructed to fill out a disclosure form relating to any donations I have made to political parties. In relation to the mining company Cortona: Is the \$375,000 Cortona has given to our Palerang Council to upgrade the recreation ground in Braidwood regarded as a fee owed to Council or a donation?

Just a few points to finish. The proposed depth at Dargues Mine is nearly the same as the mine in Chile which recently proved a disaster, to miners and mining company. Deep drilling for gas offshore in the U.S.A was incredibly disastrous for the environment and population in the vicinity. Are we humans too avaricious to learn?

I would appreciate your consideration of the above concerns. I have by no means listed a comprehensive range of concerns. I thank you in advance for taking these concerns into account in to your considerations,

Yours sincerely,

J.A. Tozer

JENNIFER ANNE TOZER

George Mobayed - Dargues Reef Mine Project

From: Robin Wallace-Crabbe <robcrab@bigpond.com>
To: <"plan_ comment"@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 27/10/2010 6:04 PM
Subject: Dargues Reef Mine Project

R & V Wallace-Crabbe
PO Box 30 (41 Monkittee St)
Braidwood
NSW 2622

Reference number 10 0054

We have problems with the Dargues Reef mine project. We are worried about ground water in periods of below average rain, pollution, and therefore the health of ecosystems - wildlife, plants, micro-organisms - connecting to this groundwater.

We think more time should be devoted to studying the effect of the mine on the environment and that the people responsible for such study should be truly disinterested parties.

Gold gets hot in the minds of investors when the price goes up. In Australia that story goes back to the 19th century, and it is disturbing to walk through those areas around Braidwood that were worked for gold way back then; interesting to view evidence of the degree of interference with the landscape at that time. It is equally interesting to note the total lack of interest in repairing the damage displayed by those who profited back then or by any party since.

A wealth accumulation life is short, the afterlife of destroyed environments is long.

Yours sincerely
Robin and Virginia Wallace-Crabbe

Political donations disclosure statement



NSW GOVERNMENT
Department of Planning

Office use only:

Date received: ____/____/____

Planning application no. _____

This form may be used to make a political donations disclosure under section 147(3) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for applications or public submissions to the Minister or the Director-General.

Please read the following information before filling out the Disclosure Statement on pages 3 and 4 of this form. Also refer to the 'Glossary of terms' provided overleaf (for definitions of terms in *italics* below). Once completed, please attach the completed declaration to your planning application or submission.

Explanatory information

Making a planning application or a public submission to the Minister or the Director-General

Under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 ('the Act') a person:

- (a) who makes a *relevant planning application* to the Minister or the Director-General is required to disclose all *reportable political donations* (if any) made within the *relevant period* to anyone by any *person with a financial interest* in the application, or
- (b) who makes a *relevant public submission* to the Minister or the Director-General in relation to the application is required to disclose all *reportable political donations* (if any) made within the *relevant period* to anyone by the person making the submission or any *associate of that person*.

How and when do you make a disclosure?

The disclosure to the Minister or the Director-General of a *reportable political donation* under section 147 of the Act is to be made:

- (a) in, or in a statement accompanying, the relevant planning application or submission if the donation is made before the application or submission is made, or
- (b) if the donation is made afterwards, in a statement of the person to whom the relevant planning application or submission was made within 7 days after the donation is made.

What information needs to be included in a disclosure?

The information requirements of a disclosure of reportable political donations are outlined in section 147(9) of the Act.

Pages 3 and 4 of this document include a Disclosure Statement Template which outlines the information requirements for disclosures to the Minister or to the Director-General of the Department of Planning.

Note: A separate Disclosure Statement Template is available for disclosures to councils.

Warning: A person is guilty of an offence under section 125 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* in connection with the obligations under section 147 only if the person fails to make a disclosure of a political donation or gift in accordance with section 147 that the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, was made and is required to be disclosed under section 147.

The maximum penalty for any such offence is the maximum penalty under Part 6 of the *Election Funding and Disclosures Act 1981* for making a false statement in a declaration of disclosures lodged under that Part.

Note: The maximum penalty is currently 200 penalty units (currently \$22,000) or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)			
Name of person making this disclosure Sarah Waters		Deigues Reef Goid Project PA 10-0054			
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)					
You are the APPLICANT		YES / NO		OR	
				You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION	
				YES / NO	
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons					
<p>* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).</p> <p>* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR</p> <p>* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.</p>					
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation	
None					
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.					
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.					
Signature(s) and Date		S Waters 1/11/2010 GARRON WATERS 1/11/10			
Name(s)		SARAH WATERS GARRON WATERS			

Sarah & Gordon Waters
"Moonrise"
46 Red Hill Road
MAJORS CREEK 2622
Email: sarah@balmer.id.au

Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

SUBMISSION - DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT
Major Application PA 10_0054

Our property is referenced in the Noise and Blasting Assessment as R10 in Table 1, page 19. Our proximity to the Project Site can be seen in Figure 5, page 21.

My family currently enjoys an idyllic lifestyle of peace and tranquility in the village of Majors Creek. We spend a considerable amount of time outside (especially late afternoons, evenings and weekends) on the verandah enjoying the sounds of nature, including the intermittent sound of frogs in the creek contrasted against the background of deep and peaceful silence.

We are now feeling like the days of this simple enjoyment are numbered, and we are set to lose the things that we treasure most about living in this village. This EA does not meaningfully explore and measure the potential loss of qualities unique to our village and way of life, such as its character, ambience and occasions of blissful silence.

The proposed gold mining operation at Dargues Reef will have numerous negative impacts on qualities that we value as central to the way of life we currently enjoy. The most serious concerns that we have include the Project's impact on:

- Noise levels;
- Light pollution;
- Effects of the mine's considerable use of water;
- Increased road traffic;
- Increased demand on limited community infrastructure

In our submission we have chosen to focus on the effects of the introduction of industrial noise and the anticipated increase in the level of noise in our village.

We would like it to be considered that:

1. Any industrial noise audible at our home at any time of the day or night is unwelcome and will severely compromise the way of life we currently enjoy.
2. Any industrial noise audible at our home at any time of the day or night would adversely alter the ambience of our village.

3. Any industrial noise audible at our home at any time of the day or night would have an adverse impact on the value of our property.
4. The applicant claims in this EA to have taken measures to reduce noise levels at residences to comply with legislated limits. We argue that complying with legislated noise level limits is not enough to negate the negative impact of industrial noise at our home.
5. As we now feel resigned to the inevitable, we will gracefully accept some industrial noise (subject to the collection and review of real data) during daylight hours if it were to be offset by compensatory contributions to benefit the residents that are directly affected by industrial noise, specifically, the residents of Majors Creek.
6. We will not gracefully accept any industrial noise at night between the hours of 9.00pm and 6.00am.
7. That those compensatory contributions to offset noise should be listed as a condition of consent.
8. Examples of compensatory contributions that we would welcome include, but are not limited to:
 - 8.1 Noxious weed eradication;
 - 8.2 Rehabilitation of land degraded by historical mining operations;
 - 8.3 Street tree planting in the village;
 - 8.4 Further development of noise controls (in addition to those already proposed in the assessment):
 - a) Explore the potential to further reduce the anticipated increase in noise levels in the village by substantial plantings of trees and shrubs on areas of the applicants' land deemed likely to have the most effect. Tree and shrub planting to reduce noise should occur in consultation with expert advice and the community.
 - b) Explore and adopt new technology to replace existing irritating beeping noise on reversing vehicles.
9. The Project's presence has already benefited the Majors Creek community to some degree by contributing towards community facilities such as the new tennis court. We argue that the contributions made to date do not sufficiently offset the negative impact of industrial noise.
10. Majors Creek residents will suffer more negative impacts than Braidwood residents given the Project Site's proximity to the Majors Creek village, in particular with regard to noise levels.
11. A planning agreement is being negotiated between Palerang Council and the applicant for the upgrading of facilities at the Braidwood Recreation Ground as a compensatory contribution. This will benefit Braidwood residents more so than Majors Creek residents.

12. It is unclear from the EA whether data specifically relating to the Majors Creek physical and meteorological environments have been used in the computer modeling to predict noise levels. As we are not experts in this field we must hope that the computer modeling used in the EA to predict noise took into account noise attenuation due to distance as well as local characteristics such as atmospheric absorption, barriers, effects of intervening ground types and local weather conditions, and information about local topography (Industrial Noise Policy, 2000). We wonder at the accuracy of the computer model and whether its predictions are a true reflection of the real impact of noise generated by the Project.
13. We accept that there are many factors that influence noise levels and we deduce from this that noise levels will be unique at each receiver location.
14. We agree that noise levels need to be monitored.
15. It is claimed that the locations deemed suitable for routine noise compliance monitoring have been chosen because of their proximity to the Project Site, so that compliance at these would imply compliance at more distant receivers (Noise and Blasting Assessment, p 42). It is of concern to us that the four proposed locations for noise compliance monitoring will not reflect accurately noise levels across all receiver locations. In particular, there does not appear to be a noise monitoring location that would be reflective of the unique noise levels at our property (Noise and Blasting Assessment, R10, Figure 5, p21).
16. We ask for more thorough and inclusive monitoring of noise levels, and that this is listed as a condition of consent.
17. The predicted noise levels based on computer modeling contained in the EA should only apply until real data is collected. Then it can be determined absolutely whether noise levels comply with the legislated limits, and at what level they are acceptable to Majors Creek residents such as ourselves. Therefore a precautionary approach should be adopted by the planning authorities.
18. We ask that a fair, transparent and direct procedure is adopted by the applicant to give Majors Creek residents an avenue for making formal complaints regarding excess noise. Complaints made through this procedure should be addressed in a timely manner by the applicant with empathy for the resident. We ask that this should be listed as a condition of consent.

Despite the Noise and Blasting Assessment there is still a large element of uncertainty as to the extent that increased noise levels will affect us. After all, what does an extra 5-15 dB really sound like in our environment? We are worried. The lifestyle that we cherish and the ambience of our village is at stake.

There is still the possibility of negotiating an outcome in which all stakeholders feel they have won something in their favor, and that all adverse impacts resulting from the Project are minimized. We must trust that the Department of Planning will give due consideration to the issues we have raised.

Sarah & Gordon Waters
1st November, 2010

George Mobayed - Dargues Reef Gold Mine: submission

From: "Millpost" <millpost2621@bigpond.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/11/2010 11:27 AM
Subject: Dargues Reef Gold Mine: submission
Attachments: POLITICAL DONATIONS FORM.JPG

David Watson
"Millpost"
P.O. Box 12
Bungendore
N.S.W. 2621

Ref No: 10_0054

I do not support Cortona's proposal to mine gold on the fringes of the Majors Creek village, for the following reasons.

The Environmental Assessment for the mine does not accurately represent the major and ongoing impacts of the mine on the local, regional, national or global environments.

The mine will be too close to the settlement and although the EA does not reflect this, there is a strong possibility that it will cause noise problems for residents, particularly at night and particularly in winter when the inversion occurs which magnifies noise. There will be considerable vehicle noise due to truck movements on local roads. The residents were there first. Their needs must come before that of a development company.

The proposed tailings dam - which the EA claims will not contain substances dangerous for the environment - nevertheless must pose risks for the watercourse and the living things dependent upon it including human beings.

Recent extreme weather events in Palerang, including a storm which delivered 100mm of rain in 45 minutes to the village of Bungendore causing the stormwater system to fail, demonstrate that it is virtually impossible to create a fail-safe system.

The mine will not enhance biodiversity in the area, even in the long-term. Australia's biodiversity is already severely damaged thanks to European settlement, and any further human activity should from this point onwards demonstrate both local and global benefits to biodiversity. Even minimal clearing is unacceptable for a profit-making, industrial-scale project such as a mine. Any human disturbance on the site will trigger the further loss of vulnerable woodland species of birds, reptiles, invertebrates and flora suffering population decline due to recent drought and historic clearing. These woodland species are worth more than gold.

Water use by mines has already severely damaged Australian surface and groundwater supplies, and their dependent ecosystems. On this the driest continent, with Climate Change already resulting in devastating consequences for agriculture and the environment, the use of any of this precious public resource for private profit is totally unacceptable.

The greenhouse gas consequences of thousands of trucks travelling to and from the mine, in addition to all the machinery used in the mining process, plus the commuting of staff to work and back, are unacceptable. The effect on road safety on all the affected roads will of course be negative.

I believe the mine is undesirable and that the road to a sustainable future lies in the opposite direction.

Yours faithfully,
David Watson

Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1978 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details

Name of person making this disclosure

DAVID JOHN WATSON

Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description)

10-0054

Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below)

You are the APPLICANT

YES / NO

OR

You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION

YES / NO

Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons

* State below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN).

* If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application. OR

* If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.

Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount value of donation
	NIL			

Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.

By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.

Signature(s) and Date

D.J. Watson 10 November 2010.

Name(s)

DAVID JOHN WATSON

SUBMISSION

RE: DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT -

MAJOR PROJECT APPLICATION NO. 10_0054

STATEMENT I Object to the environmental Assessment in its current proposal and form.

OBJECTIVE: To give ourselves and the community of MAJORS CREEK the VERY BEST OUTCOME given that we have not chosen to have the mine rather that the proponent put to us this is how it is going to be. Interesting as the last proponent lost a high court decision to mine. This proponent also has been ordered to reduce their hours to daylight only in exploration.

OUR HISTORY: We moved to Majors Creek in 1993 we purchased vacant land on the southern side of the Majors Creek village, altitude 700metres in a Beautifully Peaceful spot. We built a solar-passive home which faces north to catch the winter sun and planted many trees, shrubs and plants. We rely on the sun for solar energy and we are not on the grid.

In 2004 a drilling program was commenced at Dargues Reef, consisting of a number of deeper holes, to test the depth extensions of the known mineralisation, without any interference of the day to day comings and goings in the village. (day time only)

That is until 2010 when Cortona Resources Ltd known (Big Island Mining PTY LTD) as the Proponent started an agresive drilling program having drilled aprox. 250holes. Agressive drilling means 24hours a day 7 days a week. We the community where told by the proponent not our Government that they would aggressively do their business its seems without a care of impact to us.

We live 3 kilometres from the site but the noise seems to bounce off the northern hills towards the southern side. Even though the noise is now seemingly diminished it still causes us to have many a broken sleep with the constant sounds of the machine ringing in our ears and the thuds penetrating our bodies.

ISSUES: * 24 HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK for the next 9 years

* IMPACT OF NOISE

* IMPACT OF DUST

* VISUAL

* TRAFFIC UNSEALED ROADS and NARROW ROADS

* Tailings

Majors Creek village lies in the terrain similar to an amphitheatre. We are situated 3 kilometres from the site of the proposed mine on a similar contour (altitude 700 metres) on the southern side - looking at much of the proposed project. (see photo and map attached)

As we have been highly impacted for many days and nights during the aggressive exploration drilling (late January to and including May) at which point they were told to stop night drilling by the Dept. of Industry and Investment due to noise. We are greatly concerned the Project, mine and it's site establishment and Construction will have a more pronounced Environmental Noise impact. THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND DAY TIME HOURS ONLY

The Proponent (Cortona Resources Limited (Big Island Ming PTY LTD)) are proposing the construction of a site access road and tracks approximately 4 kilometres in length on the property, (part of which is altitude 720m) which will be regularly watered to STOP DUST. WE THINK THAT IS A TOTAL MISS USE OF WATER AND FUEL (energy) and that the road would be better SEALED also eliminating any possibility of dust and catapolting of gravel from the tyres into the traffic on the Majors Creek Road

We have see the Haze of the Exploration Drilling. WHAT WILL WE SEE WHEN the bulldozer, excavator, front-end loader are finished and they start fragmenting

the material using drill and blasting techniques..
later the Ventilation shaft
WHAT WILL WE HEAR AND SEE WHEN they load the pre-
drilled pattern of holes with pre-packed and bulk
explosives, and blasted to fragment the in situ
material and stock piled on the ROM pad and when
processing Ore material which would be crushed, ground
and concentrated to produce a combination of gold ore
(a semi purified gold bar) a gold and silver-bearing
sulphide concentrate and tailings material which would
be pumped in the Tailings Dam at altitude of 685 to
710metres.

The proponent estimates that during construction there
would be 30 light vehicles and 6 heavy vehicles using
the roads and when in operation 20 light vehicles and
18 heavy vehicles. As this will also be a major
contributor to the local road system we feel Majors
Creek Road needs to be widened to a least 8m, and LINE
MARKINGS both centre and outer lines, as it is a
country road many people tend to veer to the centre.

In March 2010 Noise Monitoring was undertaken and
confirmed Background noises were below 30dB at all
residences - at our place a 19dB reading was noted.

The Proponents criteria for noise and blasting
generated by the project are

- * Site establishment and mine operations - 35dB(A)
(L15min)
- * Night-time sleep disturbance - 45dB(A)L(is this
greater than day time?
- * road traffic noise- 55dB(A) daytime and 50dB(A)
night time) (L 1 hour)(is this greater than day time?
- * Air blast overpressure - 115dB(L)
- * Ground vibration- 5mm/s Peak Vector Sum (PVS)

THAT IS WHY WE ARE CONCERNED FOR OUR PEACE AND HEALTH

Until late January 2010 when the proponent started an aggressive drilling program (24 hrs a day 7days a week) intending to drill for 3 months which lasted until late May, they were told to work 7am to 6pm by the Dept of Industry and Investment due to the offensive noise(copies of letters attached). We believe the proponent has since negotiated and have re-commenced further drilling commencing late July 2010 and is ongoing. We have endured this offensive and intrusive noise in fact.

We have constantly contacted all parties responsible for these impacts. We have felt intimidated and subjected to deception and ridicule for protecting our peace and health and for caring that others could be impacted as well.

Cortona Resources LTD Requested we keep a copy of impact(copy attached).

During this period although they so called control the rock dust - we have still see a haze over the site.

If as is stated that the exploration is daylight hours only then this precedent is good for mining day time only.

IN SUMMARY

If the proponent were to work DAY TIME HOURS ONLY it would give GREATER STABILITY to the employees for a longer period of time and the community at large and we can then get our PEACEFUL REST and the Proponent would still get their Gold.

We have attended all community meetings with the proponent and Majors Creek community. We have communicated in writing to The Premier of NSW;The Department of Investment and Indusrty;The Department of Environmental and Climate Control;The Minister for Mining NSW;The Palerang Shire Council and The Proponent of our concerns.

We believe all of our communication has been recognised and that we should not have been placed in the situation of any impacts as we have been. ie; 24hours a day 7 days a week. (Exploration should always have been day time only)

Already a major impact ; OFFENSIVE INTRUSIVE NOISE at NIGHT DISTURBING SLEEP and HEALTH.

All the science in the world does not give a better guide than fact. That which we have felt from the exploration during this past year.

In closing all decisions for approval are made by people who do not live in Majors Creek. So we ask (with respect) that you place yourself in our shoes so that the outcome will not impact on anyone when your decisions are finalised. As the proponent may be entitled to mine we are entitled to live in peace and good health at our home in Majors Creek.

There are some folk in Majors Creek that feel that what they say will have no bearing on the outcome - that it will not make a difference. We hope that you can prove them wrong.

Re: DARGUES REEF GOLD PROJECT- MAJOR PROJECT APPLICATION NO. 10_0054

I OBJECT TO THE Environmental assessment in its current form and IT SHOULD BE A CONDITION OF THE Environmental Assessment That the proponent Includes the following and that they should be regulated by the department of Industry and Investment:

1. . It should be a condition of the EA that they work day light hours only.DAY LIGHT HOURS ONLY this will eliminate NOISE,LIGHT,DUST and TRAFFIC impact at NIGHT giving the proponent mining and residents nil impact at night. Saving energy and water. I believe there is a precedent set that the proponent was told to work day light hours only during exploration.Copies of letters from the Minister of mining and Dept of I&I attached.
2. NO TAILINGS DAM I believe that there have been 2, 100year flood scenarios in the past 12 months in Australia and with climate change this will increase i.e. Tailings disaster in Hungary 2010 a further 80year flood October in southern Australia. all materials should be taken away after crushing and milling.The predictions are increases in weather conditions according to BOM ie:more floods
3. MAJORS CREEK is a RESIDENTIAL AREA, there should be NO Industry of this magnitude in a residential area especially at night The land where the mine site is proposed is argicultural land and borders the residential village in fact. We are not an isolated desert land were no persons lives. We believe there is a precedent set in our shire that a gravel pit can only work daylight hours Monday - Friday and Saturday morning.
4. NO ABOVE GROUND OPERATION it should a condition of the EA that all operations should be conducted underground when the Portal is established;ie mill,crusher and all motors.This practice is common in the northern hemisphere.
5. TRAFFIC ROAD it should be a condition of the EA that the main road between Majors creek and Braidwood be 8 metres wide road marked with centre and side lines. Safety of the residents school bus and allroad users from heavy transport ie; mining product
6. LAND VALUES should be protected there are houses already for sale and not selling because of the unknown market.
7. ALL ROADS WITHIN THE VILLAGE SHOULD BE SEALED and 50kph speed restrictions as Traffic has increased and will continue to increase.
8. It should be a condition of the EA that any resident affected by NOISE impact should be compensated with a noise barrier of the residents choice.We kept a record for the proponent January to May 2010 copies attached.Photo also attached of visual from our land to proponents land.

9. It should be a condition of the EA that residents be given water purifiers to eliminate any further dust FALL- OUT on their drinking water we all rely on tank water.

10. It should a condition of the EA that the site road be sealed this would save the use of water for dust suppression and eliminate dust for traffic to and from site.

11. It should be a condition of the EA that SCIENCE THEORY Alone is not the True Answer And therefore the immediate people affected should be LISTENED TO and PROTECTED.ie; Residents that are impacted upon. Where is the duty of care?

12. According to the mitigation content in the EA the door is open to consultation after approval we believe the door was closed before the EA and should be open to negotiation in all the above areas prior to approval of a mining license and I would personally like to speak to all of this submission with the Director General and proponent. The proponent attended a community meeting Late October 2010 and did only comment on a road. A reasonable person would discuss the objections and find them acceptable with discernment.

REASONS NOT TO HAVE THE MINE AT ALL

1. MINING DISASTER AS IN CHILE AUGUST 2010.
2. TAILINGS DAM DISASTER AS IN HUNGARY OCTOBER 2010.
3. NO MINE ESCAPE ROUTE OTHER than MAIN PORTAL and air vent hole.
4. MINE SITE IS a neighbour to A RESIDENTIAL AREA. the mine land is bordering on the residential village of Majors Creek

Jeff Welford
Weeroona
6 Elrington lane
Majors Creek
NSW 2622
P 0248461088
23rd October 2010

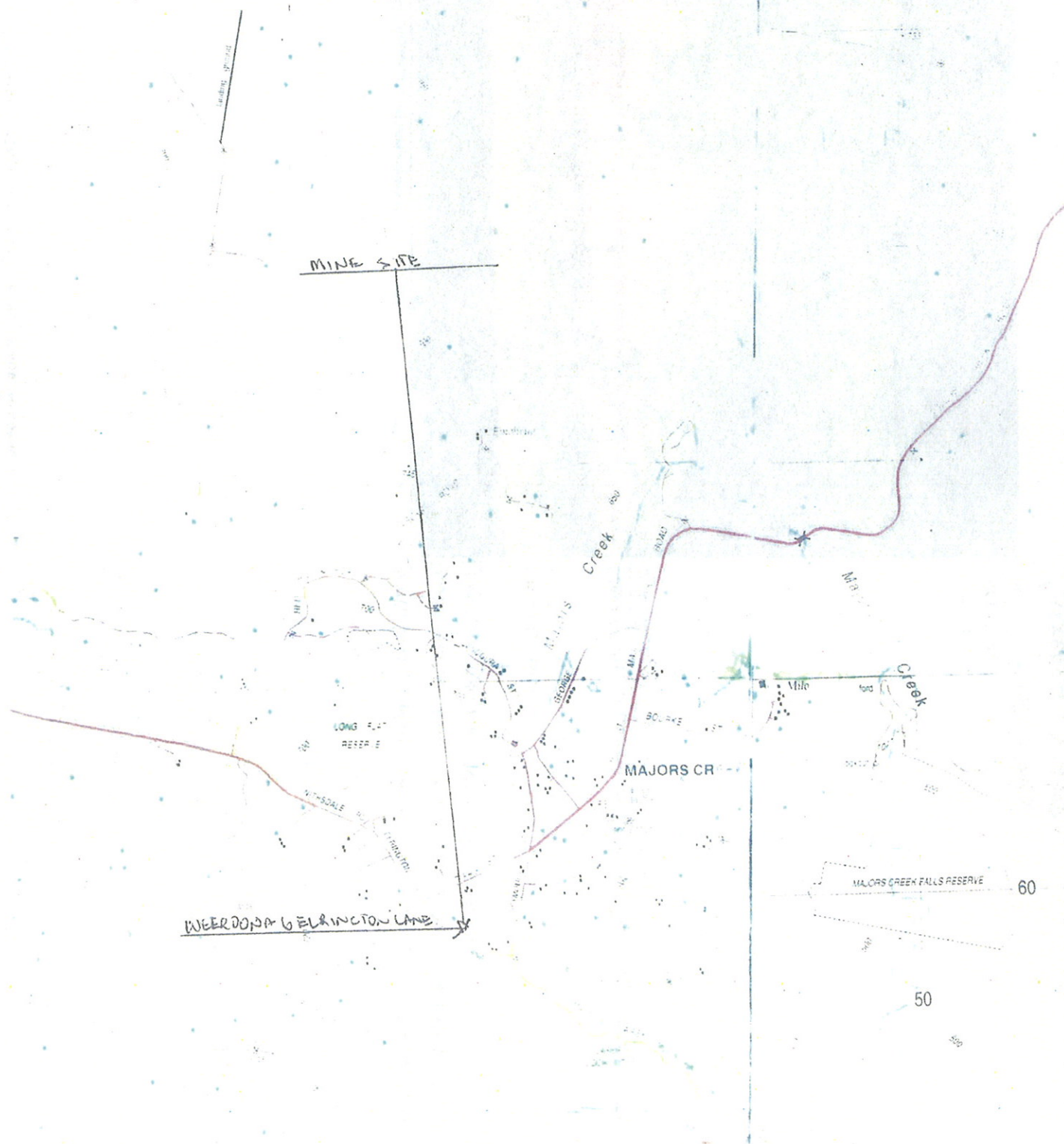


Political Donations Disclosure Statement to Minister or the Director-General

If you are required under section 147(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to disclose any political donations (see Page 1 for details), please fill in this form and sign below.

Disclosure statement details Name of person making this disclosure JEFFREY PAUL WOLFORD		Planning application reference (e.g. DA number, planning application title or reference, property address or other description) 10-0054		
Your interest in the planning application (circle relevant option below) You are the APPLICANT YES / NO OR You are a PERSON MAKING A SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION YES / NO				
Reportable political donations made by person making this declaration or by other relevant persons <small>* Starts below any reportable political donations you have made over the 'relevant period' (see glossary on page 2). If the donation was made by an entity (and not by you as an individual) include the Australian Business Number (ABN). * If you are the applicant of a relevant planning application state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by any persons with a financial interest in the planning application, OR * If you are a person making a submission in relation to an application, state below any reportable political donations that you know, or ought reasonably to know, were made by an associate.</small>				
Name of donor (or ABN if an entity)	Donor's residential address or entity's registered address or other official office of the donor	Name of party or person for whose benefit the donation was made	Date donation made	Amount/ value of donation
No POLITICAL DONATIONS TO REPORT.				
No REPORTABLE DONATIONS				
Please list all reportable political donations—additional space is provided overleaf if required.				
By signing below, I/we hereby declare that all information contained within this statement is accurate at the time of signing.				
Signature(s) and Date JEFFREY PAUL WOLFORD				

✓



10-0054

PHOTO TAKEN FROM OLD BUILDING SITE 1913. (TARPS HAVE NOW BEEN)



PAPOONETS MINE ROAD ALTITUDE APPROX 7200M

PAPOONETS MINE SITE ALTITUDE APPROX 7000M

MADORS CREEK VILLAGE RESIDENTIAL

LAZEE LEVEL

WEEKOONA BEUINGSTON LAKE MADORS CREEK 700M
OUR RESIDENCE IS IN THE VILLAGE

Sheldahl 12/31/2010
STEVEN DOUGLAS

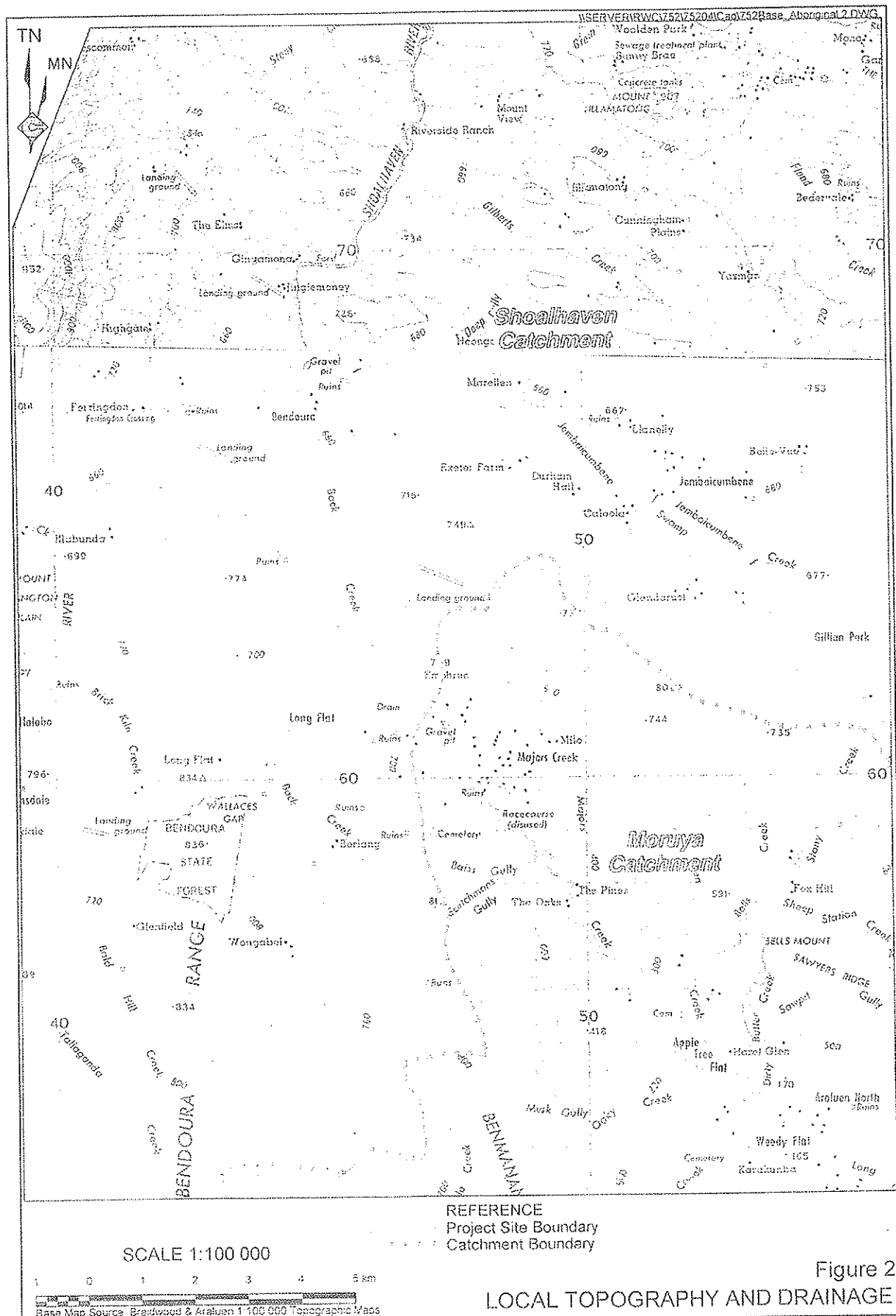


Figure 2

LOCAL TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE

Note: A colour version of this Figure is available on the Project CD.



Industry & Investment

OUT10/7172

Mr Jeff Welford
jeffireneontour@yahoo.com.au

Dear Mr Welford

Thank you for your email to Industry & Investment NSW concerning noise impacts from exploration drilling associated with the proposed Dargues Reef Mine at Majors Creek.

Cortona Resources Limited is undertaking a feasibility study within ML103 and EL 6003 at Majors Creek. The feasibility study, which was approved by the Department on 9 July 2008, involves exploration drilling at 67 locations. Prior to commencing works, a Review of Environmental Factors was prepared by the proponent, which was considered as part of the Part 5 Determination under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Project site is approximately 2.5kms from the village of Majors Creek, with the nearest resident being 800m from the site. A noise management strategy formed part of the proponent's Review of Environmental Factors.

The current exploration program has been subject to environmental assessments and follow up investigations by acoustic consultants. It is my understanding that noise management strategies recommended by the acoustic consultant have been implemented by Cortona Resources Limited, involving the construction of noise barriers.

Industry & Investment NSW has instructed Cortona Resources Limited to restrict the hours of operation to standard daytime hours, unless all affected residences within 1km of drilling activities provide agreement for operations outside of standard daylight hours.

Should you have any further questions regarding the exploration program and the approved hours of operation, please contact Mr Chris Rudens (A/Team Leader – Southern Region) on 02 4222 8321.

Yours sincerely

BRAD MULLARD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MINERAL RESOURCES

10-0054



The Hon Paul McLeay MP

Minister for Ports & Waterways
Minister for Mineral and Forest Resources
Minister for the Illawarra | Member for Heathcote

MF10/4366

Jeffery Wolford
jeffireneontour@yahoo.com.au

26 JUL 2010

Dear Mr Wolford

I refer to your correspondence of 6 May 2010 to the Premier regarding your concerns about Cortona Resources Limited's noise impacts from exploration drilling associated with the proposed Dargues Reef Mine at Majors Creek. As the matters raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities, the Premier has forwarded your correspondence to me for response.

Cortona Resources Limited is undertaking a feasibility study within Mining Lease 103 and Exploration Licence 6003 at Majors Creek. The feasibility study, approved by Industry & Investment NSW (I&I NSW) on 9 July 2008, involves exploration drilling at 67 locations. Prior to commencing works, a Review of Environmental Factors was prepared by the proponent. A noise management strategy formed part of the proponent's Review of Environmental Factors.

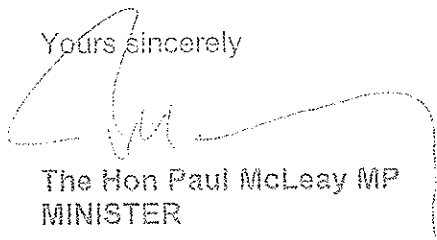
I am advised that the current exploration program has been subject to environmental assessments and follow up investigations by acoustic consultants. It is my understanding that noise management strategies recommended by the acoustic consultant involving the construction of noise barriers, have been implemented by Cortona Resources Limited.

In May 2010 I&I NSW instructed Cortona Resources Limited to review the hours of the current operation with the view of restricting the hours of operation to standard daytime hours.

I am advised that as of July 2010, Cortona has formally restricted their current operations to 7am – 6pm, 7 days a week. Any additional exploration programs and potential change in operational hours will be subject to a separate assessment complying with relevant noise assessment guidelines.

Should you have any further questions regarding the exploration program and the approved hours of operation, please contact Mr Chris Rudens (A/Team Leader – Southern Region) on 02 4222 8321.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Paul McLeay MP
MINISTER

150054

Date	Time	Weather	Impact	sound	sound	Reported Cortona
25/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	sound tonal	
26/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
27/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
28/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	29/01/2010
29/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	29/01/2010
30/01/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	30/01/2010
31/01/2010						
1/02/2010	day&night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	1/02/2010
2/02/2010	night		worst night so far		tonal	2/02/2010 possible winch
3/02/2010						
4/02/2010						
5/02/2010	night		concerned intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
6/02/2010	night					
7/02/2010	night	11pm 3am	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	7/02/2010
8/02/2010	night	overcast	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	8/02/2010 possible generators
9/02/2010	night	clearing	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
10/02/2010	night	overcast	quite			
11/02/2010	away		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	10/02/2010 possible winch
12/02/2010	away					
13/02/2010	away					
14/02/2010			quite			
15/02/2010	night	overcast	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
16/02/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
17/02/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	16/02/2010 possible winch
18/02/2010	night		disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
19/02/2010	night	clearing	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	19/02/2010 possible hydraulics
20/02/2010	night	12am 430am	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
21/02/2010		430am	disturbing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
22/02/2010	night		quite			
23/02/2010	night	430am	concerned intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	
24/02/2010	night	5am	easing intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal	24/02/2010 extracting gear

25/02/2010 night 3am concerned intrusive hum and whirr tonal

summary of noise from mine exploration that was heard at Weeroona 16 elrington lane Majors Creek 25/01/2010-25/02/2010
duration of impact from noise longer than 2 hours each night

Date	Time	Weather	Impact	Impact	Sound	Sound	Reported Cortona
26/02/2010	night						
26/02/2010	11pm	clear	concerned	Intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal penetrating	
27/02/2010	10pm	clear	disturbing	intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal penetrating	
28/02/2010	3am-9am	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	hum and whirr	tonal penetrating	
1/03/2010	2am-	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	1/03/2010
2/03/2010	away						
3/03/2010	away						
4/03/2010	night	misty	disturbing	intrusive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
5/03/2010	night	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
times are indicating loudest impact that night							
6/03/2010	night	overcast	quite				
7/03/2010	night	misty	intrusive		hum	tonal penetrating	
8/03/2010	night	rain	disturbing	intrusive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
9/03/2010	night		disturbing	intrusive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
10/03/2010	night	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	hum+ highpitch	tonal penetrating	
11/03/2010	night	misty	disturbing	intrusive	hum+ highpitch	tonal penetrating	11/03/2010
12/03/2010	night	rain	disturbing	intrusive	hum+ highpitch	tonal penetrating	12/03/2010
13/03/2010	night	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	hum+ highpitch	tonal penetrating	13/03/2010
14/03/2010	night		concerned				14/03/2010
15/03/2010	night	overcast	disturbing	intrusive	hum+highpitch	tonal penetrating	15/03/2010
15/03/2010 during this month the sound coming from the mining exploration has been offensive							
16/03/2010	night	clear	offensive		high pitch	tonal penetrating	16/03/2010
16/03/2010		Neil Pennington and Cortona 5pm 26 decibels 10pm 28 decibels loudest sound a frog					low and high range frequency rec
17/03/2010	night	clear	offensive		high pitch	tonal penetrating	17/03/2010

18/03/2010 night						
19/03/2010 night	3am	clear	offensive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	20/03/2010
20/03/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
14/04/2010 night	2am		offensive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
15/04/2010 night	230am		offensive	high pitch	tonal penetrating	
25/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
26/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
27/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
28/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
29/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
30/04/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	30/04/2010
1/05/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
2/05/2010 night	10pm	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	2/05/2010
3/05/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	3/05/2010
4/05/2010 night	2am	fog	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
5/05/2010 night	2am	overcast	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	
6/05/2010 night	2am	clear	offensive	high and low pitch	tonal penetrating	

(Indicate Jeffrey was found)
 Report sent to RAO Penant.
 May 2010. J