

Naomi Nelson - Online Submission from John Smith (object)

From: John Smith <smithjohn2@bigpond.com.au>
To: Naomi Nelson <naomi.nelson@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 15/11/2010 2:36 PM
Subject: Online Submission from John Smith (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

RECEIVED

15 NOV 2010

The site access point via Menangle Rd(which is not the preferred option) is unacceptable. During the construction phase which runs over a 3 year period I will be subject to excessive noise and dust and do not believe that the controls outlined in the plan will prevent this. The prevailing winds (N,NE) will blow the dust and noise directly towards my house. We are on tank water and do not have the luxury of wasting it on dust/dirt removal. I also believe that the dust and dirt will increase my workload in cleaning the family pool and again waste our water because after cleaning the pool I will need to back flush the filter. The house windows will need to be closed to stop the dust entering the house and in the summer months will make the temperature inside the house unbearable unless I once again increase my living costs and use air-conditioning. I work shift work and the constant truck/excavator/bobcat noise will make it impossible to sleep during the day time periods. These might seem trivial to a multi million dollar company but are a very real issues for me in an never ending world of skyrocketing costs. The access road is very steep and for the trucks to go up and down this road large amounts of power will be required and coming down I would assume air brakes would be used. If the access road is approved by your planning department then it needs to address these very real issues. In addition if the issues raised were addressed then on top of this the access road would need to be sealed at the construction stage and not later on as tabled in the application.

Regards

John Smith
Resident

Name: John Smith

Address:
10 Blades Place
Douglas Park
N.S.W. 2569

IP Address: cpe-124-184-240-27.lns13.cht.bigpond.net.au - 124.184.240.27

Submission for Job: #4067 Appin Ventilation Shaft No. 6 Project
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=4067Site: #1690 Appin-West Cliff Mining Complex
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=1690-----
Naomi Nelson
PlannerP: 02 9228 6339
E: naomi.nelson@planning.nsw.gov.au
-----Powered by [Internetrix Affinity](#)

①
No 1
of 2 Pages

RECEIVED

17 NOV 2010

Mrs CHRISTINE HARRIS

Lot 10 MORETON st
Douglas Park. NSW
2569.

Phone (02 46327477)

- Submission, Regarding construction and operation of upcast ventilation shaft N° 6.
- Project application number (10 0079)
- I do not support the position chosen for upcast ventilation shaft N° 6
- I totally object to the position chosen for upcast shaft N° 6, being approximately 600 metres from the local public Primary School near Dowle street
 - approximately 600 metres to my 3½ year old Grandsons residence. in Railway Pde.
 - approximately 600 metres to our own home in Moreton street Douglas Park.
- Raising fears of possible health issues
- Dust / Fallout from shaft.
- NOISE from FANS. (24 HOURS A DAY. for 20 YEARS.)

I do not want anymore stress from noise, The noise from the Fans combined with the noise from the expressway behind our property, amplified by the Gully and creek, will be unbearable.

We are an established community, a growing community. with Preschool. SHOP and

CL Harris PTO.

Mrs CHRISTINE HARRIS.

Post Office., Service station. Railway station., a Friendly community, other small local business's Local Oval., Community Hall. Fire station, Sports Groups tennis courts. Everything in this community in Douglas Park at this time. Operates in and for the interest of the residents.

The development of upcast shaft N° 6 is inapropriat so close to our township.

I would hate to see our community deteriorate because of this development.

If people find Douglas Park an undesirable place to live, I can see resale values falling.

I am a resident of longstanding in Douglas Park. I have lived here for 38 years. In these years I have seen a lot of changes, most of them good for the community.

I have been involved in the community consultation process, as a guest of the committee. I am aware of the trouble BHP BILLITON has gone to involving the community in the decision making process.

BUT, "BHP BILLITON ILLAWARRA COAL" has not GUARANTEED that this DEVELOPMENT of UPCAST SHAFT N° 6, WILL NOT DETRIMENTALLY affect the HEALTH and wellbeing of the residents of the Community of DOUGLAS PARK.

Yours sincerely CH Harris

Douglas Park Community Advisory Panel minutes Meeting 25th May 2010 - Douglas Park Community Hall

Statement: It was highlighted by a community member that because of the topography of the area and that Douglas Park is in a basin that the air that comes out of the vent shaft will stay in the valley, especially as the extracted air will be at a warmer temperature than the outside temperatures particularly during winter.

Alternatives to the proposed vent shaft

Q: Can you use booster fans instead of installing a new vent shaft?

A: That is certainly something we have assessed but is not a viable option because due to the extent of the underground workings and total air requirements for a two longwall domain. To meet these criteria the number and complexity of the banks of booster fans to be installed underground is not manageable.

Air quality from shafts

Statement: Following the site visit to Illawarra Coal's Brooks Point Road facility, concern was raised about the smell coming from the shaft, even though those attending could not see anything. It was also raised that this shaft is about 1.5 kilometres from the township of Appin, which is a lot further than the proposed site for the No. 6 vent shaft.

Please note: the odour detected by some panel members could have been from a Bulgo Hole (a gas ventilation hole draining gas from Bulgo Sandstone) that was upwind of the No 3 Vent Shaft.

Response: The proposed shaft is an upcast shaft drawing the air from underground and emitting it from the mine. Largely the air is what those working underground breathe all day. There will be a very low concentration of methane in the air.

The table below provides additional information since the meeting, below compares the Mine Ventilation Air samples adjacent to the operating Longwall 703 on 15 April 2010 against published concentrations in ambient air.

	Oxygen (%)	Argon (%)	Nitrogen (%)	Methane (%)	Carbon Dioxide (%)
Mine Air	20.6	0.92	76.7	1.6	0.15
Ambient Air	20.9	0.93	78.1	0	0.03

NB. The totals do not add to 100% as not all aspects of air are measured.

It may have some odour and this will be managed in the way the shaft is designed, situated and operated. Odour generally results from higher hydrocarbons. There are present in Mine Ventilation Air in very small concentrations that are in the order of 0.000x % magnitude. The increased use of surface gas drainage will also assist to limit the level of methane and higher hydrocarbons in the mine air.

Dust can also be emitted from the upcast shaft. Generally this is either coal dust or stone dust (fine crushed limestone used to suppress explosions should they occur). Dust emissions can occur when mining is in close proximity to the shaft. It is expected that dust will fallout in close proximity to the shaft and be directed up the rail corridor. **WILL IT FALL 600 metres into school and nearby residential properties. WHAT HEALTH RISKS WILL WE BE SUBJECTED TO?**

An air impact assessment is in preparation and will form part of the Part 3A application. The air impact assessment will assess both odour and dust emissions, and any impact on the community. The air assessment will be undertaken in accordance with (DEC 2005) "Approved methods for the modelling and assessment of air pollutants in NSW". This document is available at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/air/quality.htm> The results of the air impact assessment will be provided to the Advisory Panel when available.

WILL BHP BILLITON ILLAWARRA COAL

Guarantee The Community of Douglas Park.
That we will have **no health risks** from
UPCAST VENTILATION SHAFT No 6.



On this page: The proposed site for the ventilation shaft is on Illawarra Coal-owned land between the Douglas Park township and the Hume Highway.

Bill & Lynne O'Donnell
670 Menangle Road
Douglas Park NSW 2569
PH: 0418 672 753

Naomi Nelson
Department of Planning

via email: naomi.nelson@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Naomi

**Appin Mine Ventilation Shaft No. 6 Project - Appin West Cliff Mining Complex
Application No.: MP 10_0079**

I would like to object to the construction of the proposed site access road from Menangle Road, Douglas Park, opposite my home.

I understand this objection is outside of the public exhibition period but unfortunately the process of writing submissions to the NSW Department of Planning was not clearly explained and BHP representatives visited me on Friday 26 November 2010 to fully explain the proposal which was after the public exhibition period had finished. It was at this meeting that the impact of the proposed site access road would have on our property was fully understood. There was also some confusion with the Bulli Seams Operations project EPBC2010/5350 that had the public exhibition period finishing on 23 December 2010. I therefore request that this objection be included for assessment in the submissions for the project.

Our objections to this project are:

PROPOSED SITE ACCESS ROAD – MENANGLE ROAD

1. The close proximity, approximately 150 metres, of the proposed access road to a notorious black spot known as *Spaniards Hill*. We have lived at 670 Menangle Road Douglas Park for 37 years and have lost count of the number of people we have helped who have driven at speed around the 's' bend and lost control. This black spot has also claimed lives. We are extremely concerned that there is not enough room for drivers to gain control of their vehicle before encountering heavy trucks entering the proposed access road or exiting onto Menangle Road, which is approximately 150m from the corner of *Spaniards Hill*. *Spaniards Hill* is a 60 speed zone (which is not adhered to) turning into an 80 speed zone before the proposed access road. The site location for the proposed site is extremely dangerous and warning signs and proposed 'seagull' intersections will not prevent a fatality happening on that section of road.

We ourselves have been lucky several times when turning right into our driveway with impatient cars trying to overtake as soon as they see a straight section of road, which is the first passable section when heading south for 1.5km. When heading south, we now continue past our driveway, turn left into Camden Road and turn around in Sullivans Road and then head back onto Menangle Road so we can make a left hand turn and enter our driveway in

safety. This section of road is dangerous enough without adding additional obstacles such as over 15 traffic signs, and 136 vehicles in and 136 vehicles out per day (as per BHP Billiton *Traffic Management Plan* September 2010 page 12). Another route needs to be identified because one life lost is one too many.



Photo taken from proposed access road entrance highlighting the short 200m distance from the renowned black spot 'Spaniards Hill'.

2. At the meeting of 26 November 2010, BHP representatives said that the proposed 'seagull' intersection will require widening of the road in front of our home and the removal of vegetation. Below are the lists of plants that will need to be removed for the proposed widening.
 - 2 x 80-100 year old Poplar Trees
 - Over 500 x 25 year old agapanthus plants
 - 2 x 20 year old Crab Apple Trees
 - Possible (most likely) removal of 40 Dorothy Perkins climbing roses along the front fence
 - Potentially removal of another 4 x 10 year old crab apple trees and 2 cherry trees

It is noted that the removal of this vegetation is not mentioned in any impact assessment reports but obviously it has an impact on the environmental aesthetics of the area, the small wildlife (frogs, lizards, etc) that inhabit the area and on the value of our home.

Below are pictures of the plants that will be required to be removed for the proposed road widening.



Left hand side of property taken from across the road.



The driveway to our property showing mature Poplar trees, crab apple trees and agapanthus that will need to be ripped out for the proposed access road.



Right hand side of our property taken from across the road.

3. BHP Air Quality Report (Page 4) mentions *"It is anticipated that initially during construction the access route will be unsealed but with the aim to have the road sealed as quickly as possible. It is envisaged the construction of the access route will take approximately 6 months"*.

What is the time frame to have the access road sealed? While the road is unsealed how will dust emissions be managed?

There are more than 21 homes that will be directly affected by dust from the construction and from the movements of heavy vehicles and machinery and many more homes indirectly affected. How will the dust during the 2 year construction stage be managed to a satisfactory level?

4. With over 15 proposed traffic signs directly in front of our home, an additional 136 heavy vehicle movements **per day**, the destruction of the rural vista by an open cut through the hill opposite, constant noise, dust emissions and odour emissions, the value of our home will depreciate significantly. There can be no compensation for this considerable loss and the heartbreak of over 37 years of work destroyed by an environmentally inconsiderate development is almost impossible to conceive.

Photos below show our home and the inordinate amount of work that has been done over decades to renovate the home and gardens.



Our home from the driveway.



The current view from the front of our home that will be destroyed with an open cut hill and road for heavy vehicles.



The view from the back of our property that will also be destroyed with the open cut hill for the proposed access road.

CONSTRUCTION HOURS

It is mentioned in the BHP Traffic Management Plan (page 12) that construction hours will be from 7:00am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday and 8:00am – 1:00pm on Saturday *“Except for approved out of hours activities such as shaft drilling”*. Surely shaft drilling will require vehicles of some kind, so exactly how many vehicles will be required.

Exactly what are *“quite construction operations that can be undertaken outside of this period?”* (BHP Billiton Traffic Management Plan page 12)

We object to any activity being undertaken outside of the hours mentioned.

OPERATIONAL HOURS

BHP Traffic Management Plan (page 12) mentions that *“Operational activities are permitted 24 hours 7 days per week for the ventilation shaft”*. Exactly what impact will this have on traffic movements on the proposed access road and the impact on the neighbouring properties? What materials will be delivered to service boreholes and is this deemed an *‘operational activity’*?

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

We fail to see how the construction of two 3.5m laneways through an open cut in a hill can be *“rural in nature”* (BHP Billiton Traffic Management Plan page 9). We strongly object to the destruction of the rural environment for a proposed access road.

We and the surrounding properties are on tank water. What effect will the emissions from the ventilation shaft and the dust from the construction sites have on our water supply? What studies have been done to address the issue of safe drinking water in our homes?

What effects will drilling have on the underground water supply? What chemicals will be used? What effects will there be on residential bores in the area?

HERITAGE IMPACTS

We are extremely concerned for the protection of the Mount Batten Group of properties. These buildings are listed on the Wollondilly Shire LEP 1991 as a heritage item. The homestead, chapel, stables and a small circular brick garden were built in 1822 and have enormous significance to the local and regional area. What maintenance will be done on the buildings to ensure they do not fall into disrepair and the historical value of this infrastructure is lost forever?

What effect will the construction and 24 hour drilling have on the 188 year old property? What management plan is in place to ensure that the dewatering pipe line that will be constructed 20m from the homestead will not damage the buildings?

There is no mention of maintaining the integrity of the Mt Batten Group of properties. As owners of a 100 year old property we believe that it is the social responsibility of owners of rare and unique buildings to ensure they are maintained for this generation and future generations. The Mt Batten group of properties are a dominant feature in the Douglas Park landscape and have significant historical value to the region. *Spaniards Hill* is named after the first owner of the Mt Batten, Jean Baptiste lehimaz De Arrietta, who was a Spaniard. Given the property's use as farming land for over 150 years it would potentially contain numerous and valuable archaeological resources. The buildings are clearly visible in the surrounding areas and it would be criminal to see this valuable piece of history lost.

We believe that the Mt Batten Group of properties should be listed as a State Heritage Item and this process should be implemented immediately and further heritage studies performed prior to any works commencing on the site.

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

I have spoken to other neighbouring properties that will be directly affected by the proposed access road who were not aware of the public exhibition process and that they could lodge an objection. They seemed to think that it was a done deal and was already approved. In the interest of community consultation and given the long life of this project, I suggest that either additional late submission can be received or the project is re-exhibited for comment after the Christmas season.

I thank you for your time in assessing this submission and if you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 4632 7485.

Yours sincerely

Lynne O'Donnell