

Personal Submission from Andrew Laird in
regards to the Maules Creek Coal Project

I own the property Roslyn in partnership with my brother Richard. There are 2 houses on the property one of which my parents live in and the other being home for my wife and 2 children. My Ancestors have worked this property since 1877 and various branches of the Laird family have owned surrounding properties that border the Leard Forest "Warriadool","Cattle Plain"," Green Gully", "Wollondilly" (formally "Dalwood") and Willowdale. This is a history I am very proud of. My children are 5th generation Laids living on "Roslyn". For the past 47 years I have lived and worked in Maules Creek on Roslyn running a grazing and mixed cropping operation.

"Roslyn "is prime agricultural land and is very safe summer and winter cropping country.



Canola



Wheat



Oats



Cotton



Production on Roslyn'

Angus Cattle

Maules Creek is a pristine environment and a great place to live and call home. The proposed Maules Creek Coal Project will have a huge impact on this environment, our farm and my families' way of life! "Roslyn" is adjoining the property "Wollondilly" to be acquired by the Maules Creek Project. This will mean that our property will be one of the closest to the mine operation, a distance of only 5km.

Of greatest concern to me is dust. With air quality and noise modeling in the Environmental Assessment (Maules Creek community Council) showing that there is a temperature inversion layer over Maules Creek for 41% of the time generally and 69% during winter. This will concentrate and trap dust generated by the mine in the Maules Creek valley with the Nandewar Ranges acting as a barrier to the north and east, causing

it to settle on the ground. Fine coal dust particles are dangerous and have been linked to cancer, respiratory problems and other diseases that will be a health hazard for my family. The cattle will also be affected by the dust-laden pasture they will be grazing, resulting in reduced productivity.

Constant Noise pollution is another impact the Maules Creek mine will have, especially at night and will lead to increased levels of stress and insomnia. The inversion layer effect will also amplify this noise. The blasting will disturb the peaceful environment of Roslyn and will spook our livestock.

The water supply we rely on for domestic use, and for cropping and livestock will come under serious threat if the mine is approved. Roslyn currently has 4 bores. These bores are not on the Maules Creek alluvium aquifer but a deeper water bearing sandstone seam approximately 35-40 meters deep. The mine depth of 320 meters is well below this, so it is a high probability that the aquifer will be permanently damaged at some stage of the mines life.

Large mounds of overburden and mine infrastructure will scar the natural landscape.

My families plan for the future is to continue working improving and developing the farm. I cannot see how a mine of this scale and magnitude in our vicinity can rectify and solve the problems of which I have outlined and therefore it will not be possible for us and the Maules Creek coal project to co- exist!

To those looking on from the sideline this predicament we are in would seem like just another stakeholder getting in the way of progress. To the Lairds and the tight knit community of Maules creek the approval of this mine will be a tragedy. We are real people with lives and dreams being put into a situation that we can't exist in, by a large conglomerate that's only real concern is its bottom line profit.

The proximity of "Roslyn" to the Aston project will make it unsalable. If the mine is approved we would expect the Company to purchase the farm outright enabling us to relocate to a clean environment.

As a member of the Maules Creek Community Council I also fully support the submission it has made in relation to the Maules Creek Project

In conclusion I would like the Department of Planning and the Planning Assessment Commission to recognize who was here first.
What will our valley be like in 21 years time?

Should you need more information please contact me;
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