

David Mooney - Bulga Optimisation Project

From: John Krey <finisterre.john@gmail.com>
To: <david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 2/06/2013 8:05 PM
Subject: Bulga Optimisation Project
Attachments: Leslie Krey Bulga Coal submission.doc; Leslie Krey Signature.jpg

Dear David. Attached is my submission for the Bulga Optimisation Project currently on exhibition.
Thanks you

Leslie Krey

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The Director
Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Dept. of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention David Mooney david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Dear Sir

Re: Bulga Optimisation Project.

Dear Sir.

I object to the expansion of the Bulga open cut mine for the following reasons.

Bund wall

The mine is telling the residents of Bulga that the reason they are building this bund wall is to protect the residents from the noise. Having perused the document this appears to be far from the truth. In fact all of the noise we will be experiencing over 6 or more years is in fact the building of the bund wall. The real reason is they need a place to put their overburden. Even though the mine states this will be built only in day hours imagine the noise and dust.

Charlton Rd

Charlton road forms part of the Great Northern Rd constructed in 1830s and the proposed noise bund requires this road to be diverted. I note that the mine has offered the Convict Trail organisation an amount of \$100,000.00 and that they will acknowledge the line of the road. However if the monies are not spent on this particular site it can be spent elsewhere. This does not appear to be ethical to me but it sounds like a bribe. Then again I may be very cynical. Bulga has also tried to preserve Wallaby Scrub Road in its previous court battle with Rio Tinto and the same logic should be applied to Charlton Rd.

Dust

No further expansions to open cut mines when they are located in close proximity to mines should be allowed to continue. You can almost guarantee if it gets approved there will be another future expansion already being considered by the mines. What the department needs to take in mind when they are making a decision is the accumulative impact of all of the mines in the area. It is almost impossible for them to be able to contain the dust and no matter what mitigation measures they put in place

they cannot comply when there are great heaps of overburden everywhere. How can the department identify where the non-compliance of dust occurs and what can they do about it at any rate. According to the World Health Organisation there is no safe level of dust but every day and night we experience high levels of dust. Enough is enough. My granddaughter lived with us for 15 months and when she left she was on a puffer. She now lives in a 3rd world country but no puffer!! Draw your own conclusions.

Noise

The noise we experience at night already is in a lot of cases non compliant. Again it is hard to detect what mine the noise is coming from but again the accumulative noise levels should be considered when making a decision about this submission from Xstrata. Sleep deprivation is a common occurrence in our house and when you have to get up in the middle of the night to make a call to the hotline it just adds to the stress.

In the consent conditions supplied by the NSW INP the mines should measure low frequency noise to adjust the high frequency noise levels. However there is an agreement between the Department of Planning and the mines that the department currently will not enforce this condition. That means that the impact of noise on the residents is not being properly taken into account. I can tell you that low frequency does have an effect. You can block out high frequency with ear plugs to a certain extent but not low frequency. The only way to do this is to take a sleeping tablet!

As well as having to put up with dust bring into mix the diesel fumes. The World Health organisation has stated that diesel fumes are carcinogenic. To add insult to injury the Government provides huge subsidies to the mines to assist the mine to pollute our air more cheaply. Pretty ironic when you think about it.

Social impacts

The social impact on the Bulga residents has not been adequately addressed in the EIS. When the mines move closer some people find the stress and impact on their health too much to bear and in some cases move away. This impacts on the social fabric of our village. When I say some people move away that is if they are lucky enough to find someone to buy their property. Look around at the properties up for sale in Bulga at the moment. No one in their right mind would buy our properties with the encroachment of open cut mines. In a lot of cases people have to stay for financial reasons and then have to suffer the consequences. The mine offers no compensation and just keeps expanding no matter what. We were anticipating the mine closing in 2025 but in fact this EIS advises it will be 2018. At least we had that proposition to look forward to but now the proposed extension will blow this out until 2035. It is just not acceptable.

Rehabilitation

To date the record of Xstrata's rehabilitation has been dismal. We have had our property for 15 years and very little has been done. There are great heaps of overburden causing dust problems and also an eyesore. I have very little faith that the bund wall that they intend to build would be rehabilitated anytime soon. In fact we would have to put up for years a big dust bund wall without anything being done if their record to date is anything to go by.

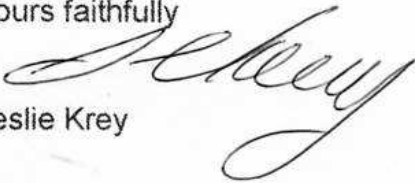
Economics

"We will provide more jobs" is always the catch cry of all mines. When in fact at the moment it shows that people are being put off because of the economics. However the jobs they do provide is not from the unemployed but from other skilled industries.

Any substantial financial benefits coming from the mines would go to Singleton and not to the people of Bulga and Broke who are the ones most impacted if this mine is allowed to expand.

I ask you to reject this application

Yours faithfully



Leslie Krey