

20 January 2013



Kevin and Robyn Lowrey

59 Crowthers Road

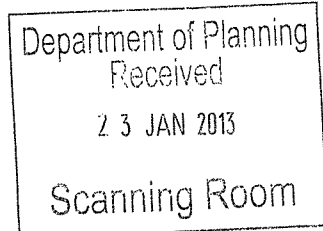
STRATFORD NSW 2422

Director of Mining Projects

Department of Planning

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir

RE: STRATFORD EXTENSION PROJECT. Reference No. SSD-4966.

We **object** to the proposed Stratford Extension Project No. SSD-4966.

NOISE

We have no faith in the modelled noise contours as shown in the EIS. It would appear convenient that the 35 dBA contour as depicted in the EIS makes a turn at our property boundary so as to exclude the village of Stratford. From our residence we have an uninterrupted view to the Stratford Mining complex (SMC), the proposed Stratford East pit and the Roseville West Extension pit areas. From our current and previous experiences with noise from the Stratford Coal operations we are very concerned that the extension project will make our lives unbearable. Stratford Coal has difficulty in complying with current consent conditions as demonstrated by noise readings taken at our residence by us using a calibrated hand held noise monitor. Readings were as follows (readings taken with smoothing function turned on so as to eliminate peaks):

- 1) 7.30am on 14th, August 2012 - TRUCK NOISE from Roseville West Pit – 45 to 51 dBA. (peaks up to 55 dBA)
- 2) 8.45am on 14th, August 2012 – TRUCK NOISE from Roseville West Pit – 45 to 52 dBA.
- 3) 8.15am on 17th, August 2012 – TRUCK NOISE from Roseville West Pit – 45 dBA.
- 4) 7.45am on 20th, August 2012 – TRUCK NOISE from Roseville West Pit – 48 dBA.

The above noise events can last for up to three hours depending on weather and other factors.

Our previous experiences of 24 hour mining by Stratford Coal were disruptive , debilitating and disturbing. Back then residents of the surrounding area tended to suffer in silence as we were assured we would only have to put up with it for 9 years.

Memories of answering the front door thinking there were vehicles stopping at our property.
(noise from mine trucks at night)

Waking up in the middle of the night and not being able to return to sleep because of the low frequency drone of mine trucks and other machinery.

This new proposal will have more machinery operating at night than the original 24 hour pit operations, I fail to see that so called quiet trucks are going to solve the problem.

The other main mitigation method the EIS offers is bunding of haul roads. It is a well known fact that in adverse weather conditions bunding offers little relief from noise sources.

The Stratford Extension Project with the reintroduction of 24 hour mining and the Roseville West Extension moving within one kilometre of Stratford village will make life untenable for residents and farmers across the valley.

LIGHTING (destruction of rural amenity)

Our property and surrounds are subject to intrusive lighting effects from the SMC. The current operation allows for some reduction in lighting from time to time. The introduction of 24 hour mining means lighting effects will be increased and continuous. After numerous complaints and discussions with Stratford Coal about lighting, very little has changed. We are continually told that there will be lighting reviews and upgrades but the end result is still unsatisfactory.

BLASTING EFFECTS

Our property of residence is approximately two kilometres from the Roseville West Pit. We have been exposed to many over pressure events that rattle and vibrate windows, move paintings on the wall and on some occasions frightened the life out of us. Back in February 2012 we were exposed to several extreme blasting events. After complaining to mine management about the bad blasts on inspecting the interior of our house we discovered cracking along cornices and ceilings. Our home at that stage was almost 7 years old and had never before exhibited any cracking. There had been no extremes of wet and dry to increase the possibility of cracking caused by natural ground movement. We obtained a builders inspection report and discussed same with mine management. Stratford Coals reply and I quote "if we fix your house we have to fix every ones". Consequently we are extremely concerned about the possibility of the Roseville West Pit coming even closer to our property.

The EIS states that the MIC (maximum instantaneous charge) for the Roseville West Extension will be limited to 400kgs. With recent complaints about blasting at the Roseville West pit I have asked Stratford Coal what the MIC for the blast in question was. After several discussions on the issue they will not share this information.

PROPERTY VALUES AND SALEABILITY

Part of the mining approval process is based on the monetary benefits to the community. I personally am insulted by this pretence when the presence of mining close to my properties devalues the capital base of my business.

It is impossible for an agricultural business to co-exist with mining as the piece meal approach to developments inhibit the possibility of land purchases in the area.(first it was 7 to 9 years then it was 10 years now another 10 to 11 years).We have attempted to grow our cattle business at Stratford only to have our hard earned capital devalued.

In the past at a public meeting at the Stratford Hall your Mr. David Kitto suggested that he was not happy with Stratford Coals piece meal approach to development.

Compensation via individual landholder agreements is devisive and anything but fair.

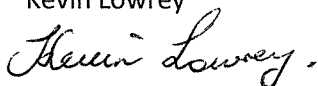
LIVEABILITY

My family has farmed continually since 1904 at Stratford. The fourth generation, but I fear I will be the last as it becomes more difficult to exist in our current local environment.

Every individual has a reasonable expectation of a peaceful life, instead we are constantly distracted and troubled by the activities of resource companies. The cumulative effects of coal mining and coal seam gas extraction are slowly but surely ruining a once clean and healthy, valley.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Lowrey



Robyn Lowrey

