

LETTER OF OBJECTION TO THE MOUNT OWEN COMPLEX EXPANSION

We Angela and Bradley Johnson, residing owners of 'Amaroo' Lot 2/1064 Middle Falbrook Road, Middle Falbrook , 2330, NSW and our children Abbey and Nicholas, **OBJECT** to the **Mount Owen Complex Expansion, DA 14-1-2004** in its whole entirety.

We **OBJECT** to all mining and infrastructure associated with this expansion that encompasses the Mount Owen Open Cut, Ravensworth East and Glendell Mine Open Cut.

Our objections are based on the well documented and visible impacts that mining has on peoples physiological and mental being and the social and environmental degeneration of rural communities.

Middle Falbrook became our home December 2013 after a lengthy search to acquire property within the Singleton Council that provided us with a rural lifestyle close to town but without the impending impact of mining. Before we purchased we did our own investigations but were unsuccessful in acquiring any relevant information. Our decision to move forward on the purchase of the property was based on our findings and locals information that Mount Owen would never impact on them.

One of our main drives for this information was to be able to assess future air quality of Middle Falbrook. We have 3 asthmatics in our household, Angela, Abbey and Nicholas. Nicholas aged 10 is an **ACUTE ASTHMATIC** and has been medicated from the age of 6 months. We previously lived in a rural area where air quality became compromised from mining which saw him become very ill, miss months of school and an increase in medication. Nicholas takes a daily combination of non-steroid and steroid preventative medication. His daily steroid preventative medication is at its maximum dosage. If this is not able to control his asthma his Paediatrician, Dr David Rogers, Head of Children's Ward, Maitland Hospital has advised us that Nicholas own naturally occurring steroids would have to be altered to be able to increase his preventative steroid.

As parents the wellbeing of our children is paramount. Neither my husband nor myself wish to alter our sons own occurring hormones, especially as he approaches puberty just to be able to continue to live in a certain area. Since moving to Middle Falbrook in late 2013, his health improved dramatically to the point that he is able to competitively play town sports again. We now however are fully aware that with the impending change of air quality that this expansion would bring that this could all change for him.

Both our children attend Saint Catherine's Catholic College Singleton in years 9 and 5. They are very happy within this school environment which can be seen from their academic results. They are active members of the school community and play in the town's touch football and rugby league competitions.

We have great aspirations for our rural lifestyle at Middle Falbrook and the working of the land. The rich alluvial creek flats with its consistent availability of pristine water from Lake Saint Claire sees the area flourishing with natural wildlife balanced with low impact farming.

In this submission our areas of objections will be in 3 categories, Community, Health and Environmental.

Angela & Bradley Johnson
'Amaroo' Lot 2/1064 Middle Falbrook Rd
Middle Falbrook, 2330, NSW

OBJECTION TO THE MOUNT OWEN COMPLEX EXPANSION - COMMUNITY

We **OBJECT** to this expansion on the grounds that Glencore have failed to consult with and keep all the community informed. We had no prior knowledge of the affect that this expansion was going to have upon us until information came to light from a private resident who had been approached for voluntary acquisition. The exhibition disc I viewed for the first time on Thursday 26th February 2015 and was informed that submission closed Friday 6th March 2015 leaving me only 8 days to submit.

We have been a private residence at this current address since Decemeber 2013 and have never received any correspondence from Glencore ie. Community Newsletters, notices of CCC meetings, mine open days. A local resident engaged with Vicki McBride, Approval Manager, Mount Owen Continued Operations on Thursday 26th March 2015 to organise a meeting which took place 6pm Monday 2nd March 2015. At this meeting Vicki McBride informed us that she had visited twice but no one was home and she did not leave a business card or any information to advise us of her visit.

It has become very clear that Glencore have no interest in our opinion or wellbeing.

We **OBJECT** to this expansion and the impact it will have upon our community. Many homes within the area are already owned by Glencore and most are currently rented. As the expansion moves forward most of these rental homes will be uninhabitable due to health and environmental change seeing the number of residence in the area decline. Three private houses on the Middle Falbrook road are already marked for possible acquisition leaving only a small number of landholders in the area.

We **OBJECT** to the use of Middle Falbrook Road by all Glencore workers and contractors. This road is not designed for heavy traffic flow. It has no pavement edgelines , limited centrelines and no night lighting. The access onto and off Middle Falbrook Bridge is tight and vision obstructed. There is a sharp right hand turn at the bottom of the hill that is also the access driveway for Lot 1064 which currently has 23 residents living on it. Residents will be impacted by traffic noise and fumes.

Hunter Valley Buses have two school runs between 7:30-9am and 3-4:30pm 5 days a week. From the intersection of Glennies Creek Road to the Middle Falbrook Bridge 15 children catch the bus. Glencore have already set precedence at Mangoola Mine and Ulan on road usage for workers and as the construction phase ramps up on Ravensworth East there will be more vehicles using this road to access the Hunterview side of Singleton. It is only a matter of time before an incident occurs as back roads are not designed for excessive traffic.

OBJECTION TO THE MOUNT OWEN COMPLEX EXPANSION - HEALTH

We **OBJECT** to the demise in air quality that DA 14-1-2004 will have upon our health and lifestyle. All work conducted on the Mount Owen, Ravensworth East and Glendell site have the potential to lower our air quality on a cumulative and individual basis.

In my cover letter I outlined the health impact that contaminated air has upon our son. Recent health group findings published in the Singleton Argus, February 24 2015, estimate the health bill in Singleton alone from the adverse effects caused by mining to be \$47 million a year. Your mental wellbeing is also challenged by the constant destruction of your living environment by mining. The stress associated with having to constantly fight for your rights while having to live with poor air quality, noise and the impacts on physical health is not acknowledged enough by the mining industry or governments and they should be made do more as part of the DA approval.

We **OBJECT** to not being able to open up our homes and being forced indoors to air conditioning because of poor air quality. (Air conditioning is another trigger for both my asthmatic children.) Having to keep windows sealed closed to stop sooty dust from entering our homes and continually have roofs, gutters, tanks and filters cleaned. We do not wish to have Glencore install air conditioning to our home as a measure to give us a clean air environment as how we live now offers us a better option. Dust needs to be watered on hall roads , overburdens, stockpiles and anywhere dust can escape. Monitoring sites need to be set up for air, dust and blast somewhere in the vicinity of our property to Upwards. Glencore is of the belief that the invisible dome that comes from the top of the ridge over us will stop all of these issues occurring and we will not be affected. I however strongly believe that we will suffer from the dust getting trapped in our valley and settling.

We **OBJECT** to the noise that will be produced by **DA 14-1 2004** in all its entirety be it on an individual or cumulative basis. Noise from the rail holding, extra trains signalling at the crossing, shunting as they start to move, along with the noise of construction of infrastructure for the rail loop, will be possible to be heard from our place. The noise of shovels, diggers, dump trucks, service vehicles especially at night will cause a large disturbance to our present peaceful sounds of the running creek and cattle.

We **OBJECT** to blasting and any other ground or air vibration that comes from **DA 14-1-2004**. Geographically our home that is on stilts is position at the end of a ridge line where large rock forms have erupted. The likely hood that we are sitting on rock is very high. House movement, cracking, sagging trusses or the potential for rock movement from blasting is of high concern to us. We have irrigation lines, silos, machinery sheds, tanks and power lines that could all be affected from ground movement. Vibration of the ground from dump trucks, diggers and other heavy vehicles can also cause issues.

The toxic plume of blasting is of paramount concern. Residents need to be informed prior to blasts, kept informed of wind changes and notified of road closure times. SMS services for notification and hotline numbers are yet to be sourced from Glencore but I was made aware by Vicki McBride on Monday that these services are available.

OBJECTION TO MOUNT OWEN MINE COMPLEX EXPANSION - ENVIRONMENTAL

We **OBJECT** to **DA 14-1-2004** in its entirety for the ecological impact it will have upon existing wildlife. We live in a very pristine and well balanced ecology. We have frogs, marsupials, birds, an abundance of estuary life in the creek that are all facing some form of impact from this expansion. Pollutant of the waterway is a major concern from redirected storm water and contaminated run off. Redirection of natural creeks will see habitat lost for many species.

We **OBJECT** to any impact that the noise, dust and blasting may have upon our livestock and crops. Dust settling on fodder and water troughs is of concern. Reduced yield of crops from dust collection on leaves or increased water consumption to keep dust off and troughs clean is all extra expense and time to the landholder. We do not want to see a decline in our agricultural ventures from the impact of mining.

As more land is lost to mining and Glencore purchases new land around our area the control of wild animals and weeds needs to be addressed and maintained by them on these properties. Wild dogs have already been reported coming from Mount Owen site and baiting and other forms of eradication programs need to be implemented and continued.

We **OBJECT** to our quality of life being destroyed by the Mount Owen Complex Expansion. The ramifications for Middle Falbrook and its unique environment are catastrophic. When this expansion goes ahead Middle Falbrook will be an unbearable place to live.