

Department of Planning

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GW & KH Cheetham

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Re- Mt Owen Continuation Project,

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We wish to lodge a submission of objection to the Mt Owen Continuation Project (referred to the Project as later reference).We are identified in the EA as 7a,7b and 7c,we are approximately 2.8klms in a south easterly direction from the proposed project .We are due east from Glendell Mine and south east of Ravensworth East Mine.

Our three parcels of land all with quality homes, shedding, irrigation infrastructure and water entitlements make up our property of just over 86 hectares which we operate as a lucerne hay and cattle breeding operation.

We are approximately 4.4klms from the existing Mt Owen pit with the Project to come approximately 1.7klms closer making us within 2.8klms of the Project.

We question the accuracy of predictions by Umwelt in regard to noise air quality and property values. The extension to the Mt Owen mine in 2004we saw acquisition zones to be within 1.8klms from our homes, this we believed was because of noise or air quality or both. In this EA prepared by Umwelt the Project comes 1.7klms closer but we see the noise and air quality contours don't change. Our predominant winds are from the north ,north-west we don't believe that Umwelts predictions are correct.

We are objecting on three grounds of concern, value of property ,noise and air quality,

1 : Property values

We own three pristine properties, we take great pride in their maintenance and care while practicing sustainable farming for the future. We know that if we wish to sell with the current mine and the proposed Project that we will have difficulty selling these properties to their full value. This has already been demonstrated with the sale of the Hedges, Wilson and Conroy properties being purchased by Glencore because they could not sell on the open market.

2 : Noise

Although not a great issue at the moment we are sure it will be as the Project comes closer. At present we can easily hear the Mt Owen and Glendell mines working of a night. Ironically while this Project EA has been on public display both pits have been very quite.

3 : Air Quality

This is our major concern, with the predominant winds from the north, north-west we currently experience what we regard as excessive dust conditions. Our gutters on our buildings are laden with grey dirt, the water from these roofs is collected and used for domestic purposes including drinking water, this is a real concern for our health. Everything you touch is dirty with grey dust, you can park a vehicle outside overnight and next morning will have grey dust stuck to it with the night dew. At our home we until recently had a screened patio area open to the north and south, protected from the west winds it was always dirty with grey dust. Last October with a large expense to us we replaced the screens with windows, the result was amazing that in windy weather we close the windows keeping out the already dust problem to this patio area. According to Umwelt we should not be experiencing this much dust at present and certainly only minimal increases in the future, this is wrong.

I am a member of the Mt Owen Complex CCC and I raise concerns with your department as to dust predictions. At our meetings we are presented with air quality results for the preceding 4 months with one of those being site specific generated dust. The mine uses TEOM 1 monitor as dust entering the site and either TEOM 2 or 3 monitor as dust leaving the site. I can not recall exact figures but for example TEOM1 could have a reading of 20 grams per month and TEOM 3 monitor a reading of 50 grams per month giving a result that only 30 grams per month is generated by Mt Owen, this sounds and probably is correct. Fact is there is a distance of approximately 8 to 9 kms between TEOM 1 and TEOM 2 - 3 monitors, the mine claims that the dust travel at least this distance for their site specific results but Umwelt claim the same dust to only travel 1km not leaving the present acquisition zones. Umwelt claim the reason for this is improved mining techniques but over burden will continue to be dumped on dumps well above current ground levels, if these new techniques are so good why does the mine not use them now.

We witness dust and nitrous oxide flumes from blasting at present from the three Glencore mines which will only get worse with the Project extension.

As I stated we have three homes on our property two of which are rented with an increase of noise and dust we believe will impact on the rental value we receive from these properties.

We are not against mining but unfortunately we have too many mines operating in the Hunter Valley all at once, the environment is not coping, Reading the EA the Flora and Fauna of the area seem to be more important than their neighbours, our family have been on this property for over 62 years and before that in this area for over 110 years. To be told that the noise and dust you will experience will be insignificant is nothing short of an insult. We know that we will not stop this Project from proceeding but ask the Department of Planning to consider the residents of the area when making your decisions

Yours faithfully

Graeme and Kay Cheetham