

SUBMISSION RELATING TO THE MINES PROPOSAL

This is a tailored personal submission in response to the mines proposal and this has not previously been submitted.

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To whom it may concern there is no benefit of writing this letter as the proposal for the mines will most likely be going ahead no matter what is written in this submission. I have still decided to take the time to write this letter anyway.

My name is Elizabeth Storrier and I live in Menangle. For over 26 years my parents have worked their asses off to be able to provide for us kids and to build our dream home on a 10-acre block, which we have lived at for the past 11 years. In 2009 my parents secured the land where we wanted to create the home that we had always dreamed of having. Our house is located on the top of a hill and from day 1 it has had the most amazing view that anyone would dream of waking up to, this is all going to be ruined by the lack of respect that you have shown to the residences of Menangle. Since 2009 my family, extended family, grandparents and friends have all helped build our house to make it as beautiful as it is today.

When we brought this block of land it was nothing! It consisted of grass that was well overgrown, trees, bushes and a shit tone of thorns. My brother, sister and myself spent our time after school and on weekends cleaning up the property to make it the property that we had always dreamed of. Still to this day we work our ass off doing work around the house and paddock to have the beauty of this land and house at its full potential.

This house is not just a house to us but it is our home, and it has been for the past 11 years. Unlike other houses that get built, this house has been created by our family. So much blood, sweat and tears have gone into this house over the years. When we started building this house I was 7 years old, my sister was 9 and my brother was 11. Considering we were so young of age and still had the determination to build this home as a family in 6 months is what makes this house so much more important to us.

There has been a lot of times where I have sat down and thought to myself life is not fair. Since 2018 we have been fighting for our home! Starting with the M9 that was introduced and was going straight through our house. From that moment our home has never felt the same. The information that we had been told caused sleepless nights for everyone in my family gathering information so that we could fight to get the M9 moved off our house. After fighting for the right to not get our family home taken away from us we are now faced with this! When do we get a break? We have worked so hard for our family home to the point where we have been physically drained, just to now be told it's going to be affected by noise, water and air pollution. How are we supposed to call this house our home if there is

now going to be a huge mine located across the road of our property which we will have a direct view of the whole process.

The amount of stress and anxiety that has been caused in my family over the past 4 years is beyond a joke. A home is where you are supposed to feel safe, not a place that our family has worked on for over 11 years that we are now afraid of losing. Put yourself in our shoes for a minute so that you can try and understand what we are going through. As a 7 year old I'm sure you can imagine the last thing that I wanted to do on the weekend and after school was to help my parents build our home. But I now understand as an 18 year old why it was so important to them that we worked as a family to get everything done. If we didn't work as a family to build this home we probably would just pick up and leave tomorrow if we had to. Our house isn't something that was built by a stranger, it was built by my family which give it such a bigger meaning.

Having built this dream home we wanted it to stay in our family forever. My parents raised my siblings and I in this house. My sister wants to keep this house for herself and raise her own family to show them the meaning of a family home, a home that has been built just for our family. How is she supposed to stay in our family home and raise a family of her own with a view that will be absolutely disgusting to look at? How is she supposed to show her family how great it is to be brought up on a 10 acre property? Everything that we have always worked for will be wasted and destroyed! People currently drive past our house and talk about how beautiful it is and how my family is living the dream. They don't know what going on behind closed doors, they don't know how hard we have fought for every little thing that we have. Now? Well, now they are going to drive past our home and think those poor bastards! They have worked their ass off for that house for the past 11 years for it all to be ruined!

Our home will never be 'complete' we moved into our house on 18/05/2010 and yet still to this date 11 years later we are still building our home. Over the past 2 weeks my family has spent time repainting the driveway and front fence. There are so many things that we continue to do to keep building our house. As a family, we are so proud to call this house our home, because of how much time and energy we have spent making it as beautiful as it is today. A few years ago we got our driveway done, which my parents spent hours researching what would look the best and what would have the best finished look. Two years ago we installed the pool of our dreams, the pool that we had been wanting ever since we moved in. My parents also spend hours researching how to make our back deck the dream outdoor area. We recently installed a kitchen outside which gets used a lot, even during the winter. The thing that I love doing most is sitting out the back eating dinner with my family and looking out at our amazing view which will now be turned to shit. To think that all of our hard work over the past 11 years is going to waste is disappointing, to say the least. We moved out to Menangle to live on a farm with peace and quiet and this is all going to be taken away from us. No one wants to look out their window to see what once was a beautiful sight to something that will now be destroyed.

My parents have worked their asses off to have everything that we have today, to have a beautiful home to raise their children and to keep that house to see their future grandchildren grow up as well. No one will ever understand how hard my parents have

worked to accomplish everything that they have in life. The day that we received the information saying that there was going to be a mine put in across the road was one of the hardest things our family has been through. Like I said previously we have already been through this shit with the M9 3 years ago. Imagine how you would feel being an 18 year old and sitting at the dinner table and watching your father break down into tears because he has just been told that once again we are fighting for our dream home. Seeing how upset my parents have been is honestly the most heartbreaking thing you could ever go through. This mine going ahead is telling my parent that everything that they have worked for, for the past 26 years is now being thrown out the window.

The fact that you think it is okay to give us max 14 days notice to write this letter to be submitted is utterly disgusting. You need to understand that this will be changing our lives forever. The future plans that we had for this house have now gone out the window. So for you to think that it's okay to give 14 days notice for a submission for a life-changing thing is ridiculous.

This isn't just a house to my family it's a home, it's where we feel safe, it's where we have made all of our childhood memories. This mines proposal has and will continue to affect my family deeply and I just ask you to try and understand our point of view. I highly recommend that you consider avoiding the proposed area all together. Think about the lives that you are now ruining, think about the future plans that will now be destroyed. If you can live with yourself knowing how much you have ruined my families lives, who have put so much blood, sweat and tears into this home then know that you will never be forgiven and I hope that you get put in the same situation where your family home gets taken away from you as well!

Below is a photo of the place where I feel the safest, the place where I get to wind down, the place where I get to be myself, and most importantly the place that has the best view in not only Menangle but in our eyes the world!



Thank you for reading my submission I hope you take into great consideration what you are really doing, and I hope you change the position of the mines proposal to somewhere more reasonable where you won't be destroying someone family home and their family memories. Elizabeth Storrier