

I object to the extended work hours into the evening (6pm - 10pm) for TSF Construction. Civil construction is very different to operational noise. These are plant that operate up to 120 dB. Operational noise can almost become a constant white noise. Civil construction has stop start aspects to hauling, tipping, pushing, compacting and reversing. Constant acceleration and deceleration noise. This provides an inconsistent distinction and why Construction activities are constrained to Daylight hours only under the original Cadia East Approval (06_0295) and clearly segregated under EPA Guidelines and State of NSW and Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW - Interim Construction Noise Guidelines.

As a community member within earshot of Cadia mine, I treasure our family evening time sitting on the veranda reflecting on the day. This proposed change will prevent this from happening going forward and this activity will need to be taken inside. This is a disruption the community should not have to tolerate. Why is it acceptable for an organisation to move the goal posts that impacts others more than themselves. Already relationships are strained of late with other challenges not related to noise. With the noise comes the fugitive light from the plant operating. I general glow to the south of the TSF area will luminate. Another change to the landscape that will come with this proposal.

An extract from the Cadia East Approval - Section 5.8 Visual - Mining Operations - The key aspects of the project that have the potential to impact on the mine's visibility to sensitive receivers include the raising of the tailing's storage facilities (northern facility to be raised by 38 m and southern facility to be raised by 20 m), the subsidence zone and light emissions during nighttime operations.

It has already been acknowledged that light emissions at night are sensitive. Let alone Tailings in general.

By permitting the extended work hours introduces many other factors: It will require split shifts to cover the 16hr days which increase traffic on the roads. The ongoing requirement to constantly monitor noise and activities are adhering to methods to minimise noise. The question of suitable noise suppression and debates over noise thresholds/exceedances and the knock-on effects to the community. This change is opening a floodgate to long term construction noise as tailings activities proceed for life of mine. Mitigation discussion and even acquisition thoughts can be prevented by not allowing this evening work to proceed. Or is this a bigger strategy to expand the mine footprint under commercially controlled mechanisms. You have to wonder.

Ultimately the Community are the only losers in this situation due to the mine not managing their schedules and need to make up time. Surely with Newmont acquiring Cadia, they have the ability to recognise how important community relations are going forward to weather the schedule impact of having to operate in the evenings. Their website preaches this. Maybe this will be a test of character as they forge their own relationship with the Community. Cadia isn't Newcrest's cash cow anymore and merely one of ten tier one Newmont assets.

This is a reactive proposal to combat schedule slippage that only risks further damage to Community relationships. The submission already notes two exceedances under their noise study. This is just the start of these exceedance discussions that should not have to exist. Why in the past 13 years has this site been able to comply with construction working hours until now. What has changed and how did it get to this position?

Government needs to honour their position from their 2010 approval and not dilute their stance on construction hours that would directly impact the environment to the surrounding neighbours. If they do, it contradicts compliance under their own guidelines.