

Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning

Submission on the Proposed Modification – Mount Pleasant Project

Bruce Leonard Bates & Mary Llewellyn Bates
"The Oaks"
1102 Wybong Road
Muswellbrook. NSW 2333

Dated: October 2010.

Modification Application Number DA 92/97 MOD 1

We **object** to the Proposed Modification because we are location No. 47, situated west of the Proposed Infrastructure Area, (specific location still to be determined following detailed design), and a New Conveyor/Service Corridor, which will greatly increase the noise and vibration, coal dust from south easterly winds, air quality, night lighting and start up sirens, which will be directed towards our property.

We also **object** as to how the placing of the Conveyor/Service Corridor as far west as possible, is the desirable scenario, and will contribute to a lower mine development cost and provide greater operational energy efficiency, also the lack of specific details for the Infrastructure Area, regarding a shutdown area for Contractor overhaul of mine equipment when the mine is in operational mode.

The following are the reasons why we **object** to the Proposed Modification.

1. Location of the Conveyor/Service Corridor for the best and worst case scenario in relation to greenhouse emissions and energy consumption has not been addressed or spoken about. If the Conveyor/Service Corridor can be placed in the best case scenario, where the R.L. levels are always decreasing, the energy consumption used to drive the Conveyor System would be far less, then having the Conveyor as far west as required by the Proponent, (Coal & Allied). I have spoken to Coal & Allied representatives about this and they say that they don't want to sterilise the coal deposits for the existing Bengalla Coal Mine in future years.

The Federal Government Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency has a target of 20% reduction in energy consumption by year 2020, for business and industry, so the scenario above should be explained in full detail, giving the amounts of electrical energy that would be saved over the 21 year life of the mine, with the worst and best case scenario of siting the conveyor on the higher and lower R.L. levels.

Basic Facts: R.L. level at the Infrastructure Area Coal Washery and Storage is approx. R.L. 220 metres. R.L. level at point where the first conveyor changes direction with the second conveyor, i.e. motor drive 500kW as per Volume 2, Appendix B, Appendices 'B' Mine Plans and Equipment Locations, Figure B.1 is

2.

approximately R.L. 250 metres. Thus, all the coal product has to be lifted to a height of approx. 30 metres if this scenario is used.

This best and worst case scenario should be fully engineered and explained by Coal & Allied, with all results tabled and shown in an easy to understand format, i.e. 'Electricity Consumption Saved' and "Greenhouse Gas Volumes/Weight emitted to the atmosphere.

2. Surface Water Management in relation to the limits that are placed on the positioning of the Conveyor.

Raw Water Dam RW1 has been designed to permit discharge at a minimum rate of 50ML/hr. and also, for surplus mine water discharge to the Hunter River via the natural drainage concourse, across Wybong Road, through Bengalla Coal Mine. During exceptional rainfall periods, surplus storage of mine water will be released to the Hunter River, in compliance with the Hunter Salinity Trading Scheme. These releases have been calculated to equate to 'Flood Flows' of greater than 2000 ML/day. (This dam RW1 has been designed for a 1 in 20 year event, not 1 in 100 year event, and no allowance for climate change storm events).

All of the above is of massive importance to the Mount Pleasant Project Modification and the adjoining Bengalla Coal Mine.

As stated to me by a Coal & Allied representative, (Richard Bailey, Muswellbrook), and as stated in Volume 1 of the Modified Environmental Assessment Report, Chapter 3.2.2, that the Bengalla Coal Mine has potential to extend mining operations into areas of which the Conveyor/Service Corridor is to be constructed.

Because the extension of the Bengalla Coal Mine has put constraints on where the Conveyor/Service Corridor is to be located, there has been no mention of the above surface water management. When Bengalla Coal Mine, mine through the only natural drainage to the Hunter River for the proposed Mount Pleasant Coal Mine, (see Volume 3, original E.I.S. Water Management Studies 3 Appendix G, Figures G1-G2-G3-G4-G5-G6-G7), the surplus mine water discharge would flow into the Bengalla Coal Mine void. This scenario should be fully investigated and explained, as the fundamental foundation of both proposed developments and the constraints, that has been placed on locating the proposed Conveyor/Service Corridor as far west as possible, is a major concern to us, because of the noise and vibration and air borne coal dust, start up sirens and lighting, that will be generated 24 hrs/day, 365 days/year.

3. Environmental Assessment Report Volumes 1, 2 & 3, Cover Photograph, that has been used.

The psychological and emotional factors arising from the proponent using the Photograph of the tranquil landscape view, of our Property, which has nothing to do with the Mount Pleasant Project Modification. This Photograph which has been used on all three Volumes, front and back covers, and internally on Appendices and Appendixes, the Web Site and the four page October 2010 Newsletter.

This Photograph has not been acknowledged in the Environmental Assessment Report, or on the Web Site. Coal & Allied/Rio Tinto Coal Australia, did not ask our permission to use this Photograph.

Unlike the E.I.S. of 1997, for the Mount Pleasant Project, the Photograph they used was acknowledged, and was a more appropriate Photograph depicting an established coal mine.

We informed the proponent about the use of the current Photograph on the 19 October 2010, and they advised us that there was nothing they could do.

Coal & Allied could have taken a Photograph of a similar tree, with the Bengalla Coal Mine in the background, which Coal & Allied/Rio Tinto Coal Australia manage, and have a 40% share in, but that type of landscape view, is always avoided by proposed coal mines.

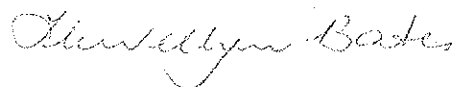
A public written apology and the reason for using the current Photograph of our property, should be forthcoming, and the Photograph removed from all future publications and the web site.

4. Infrastructure Area Envelope We have a major concern that if a shutdown area for Contractor overhaul of large mobile equipment is placed as far west as possible, in the Infrastructure Envelope, it would have a major impact on our property. This scenario has not been spoken about in the Table of Contents, but it is a common place work area in existing operational coal mines in the Hunter Valley area, and should be considered in the development of the Modifications for the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine, and the effect it would have on nearby properties.

5. Air Quality With the Proposed Modifications predicted to have relatively small changes in detectable dust levels, our main concern is from the **cumulative effect** of the existing mines, and the extensions to those mines, and the addition of the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine.

With the N.S.W. State Government installing HVAS PM 2.5 Monitors in the township of Muswellbrook, starting in Year 2011, the results that are found from this Monitoring should be considered, when the Modification Application for the Mount Pleasant Project is finalised by the Department of Planning.

When the National Pollutant Inventory published figures that show the PM 10 Emissions, reported by the mines increased from 37,000 tonnes in 2003 to 55,160 tonnes in 2008. Therefore the Air Quality criteria for the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine was based on the Bengalla Coal Mine PM 10 Monitoring results, for its Assessment Report. This may not be a true guide for the Mount Pleasant Coal Mine when operational.

Stop Open Cut Coal Mining "SOCCM"

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29 October 2010

(MtPleasantOBJECT.doc)

Mining & Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000
eMail: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Mount Pleasant Coal Mine – Modification
Application Number: DA92/97 MOD1

I write to express my opposition to the Mt Pleasant mine and proposed modification.

As a resident, landowner & business operator I am very concerned about the progress of this mine and the many mines that are encroaching upon the Upper Hunter Valley.

I note that the Development Consent for Mt Pleasant was granted in 1999 – some 11 years ago. Since that time many mines have established in the Hunter. The environmental impact assessment that accompanied the original consent is clearly out of date – not only with today's environmental standards but also with community attitudes and the impacts of mines that have in this intervening period established operations in the Upper Hunter.

To my knowledge, a cumulative impact assessment on both environmental and health implications of this mine and proposed mines in the near vicinity has not been undertaken.

It is my view that mining in the Hunter has reached saturation point. The impact on our community, environment and health of all residents needs to be properly and fully assessed before the Government approves further mining in the area. **At a recent Planning and Assessment Committee meeting regarding the now cancelled Bickham mine, a Doctor who practices in Singleton presented evidence that a clinical trial he has been conducting at his practice showed that one in every six children suffer from breathing/lung problems, (e.g. asthma) as a result of the air pollution in that district caused by the open cut mines in the area. The air pollution in the Muswellbrook area is already far worse than any acceptable standard. If the Mt Pleasant mine proceeds it will certainly cause lung problems for children and adults who live in the area. The air pollution will almost certainly cause the death of some people. The State Government and the mining company will be held responsible for those deaths and it is probable that a class action will be taken against the Government should anyone die as a result of this mine proceeding.**

In May of this year I was heartened by Premier Keneally's attention to the increasing conflicts between mining and other land uses in our region. I applauded her attention and understanding of the social and environmental issues that were at stake. I welcomed and publicly supported her decision to prohibit mining at Bickham.

That decision gave me heart so that we could end over ten years of uncertainty and move forward with our lives and our businesses.

Now another cluster of mines, including Mt Pleasant and proposals for Dartbrook and West Muswellbrook threaten to undermine all the confidence that the Premier instilled in our community.

The Mt Pleasant mine is another example of a decision that has taken over ten years to resolve while lives and investments in the community have been put on hold.

The threats to our air quality and water security and health are manifold when they are considered in conjunction with the cumulative effects resulting from the cluster of mines in this area.

As residents, landowners & business operators with much at stake we have not been advised of the cumulative effects this and other mining proposals will have on our region.

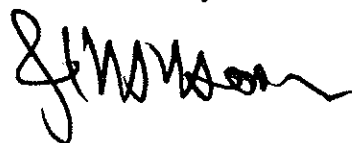
In addition to water and air quality, we are very concerned about the risks to our health, the impact on road and rail infrastructure, the social and health support services and the impact on employment in our region.

The Bickham Planning Assessment Commission provided the public with an opportunity to comment on mining operations that will affect their future and the character of their community.

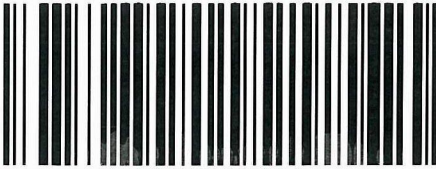
I suggest that it is vital that the NSW Government appoint a Planning Assessment Commission to undertake a review of the cumulative effects of the cluster of mines, including Mt Pleasant, Dartbrook and West Muswellbrook before final decisions are made on these individual mining proposals. Most good government in recent years has involved strong community involvement. The voting community in this area will of course take part in the community input that results from the appointment of a Planning Assessment Commission be appointed. A Government that "bulldozes" it's decisions on the people will lose the support of the people.

Our health, the health of our environment and the future of our community depends on it.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JCH Horn', with a stylized, flowing script.

JAMES C H HORN



PCU016064



Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

NAME: Jonathan and Elisabeth Moore
ADDRESS: Gilgai 1140 Wybong Road Muswellbrook NSW 2333
DA 92/97MOD

We object to the Proposed Mount Pleasant project modification.
Here are a number of reasons why we object to the proposed modifications.

1) The infrastructure area will now cover a larger area and the specific location is not determined. The proposed modified infrastructure area has expanded to join our property.

"These improvements will result in changes to the orientation, area and height of some parts of the design" Vol. 1 p. 20

We have concerns with the height of some buildings. Visual impact and Night light being two concerns in particular.

2) The position of the new conveyer and the location of the 500kW motor drive. The proposed conveyer will travel directly to the western boundary of the conveyer/service corridor and then follow in a southerly direction.

This brings the conveyer and the motor drive to our boundary and 400meters from our residence, which is No 43. Vol.1 p.51

We are concerned about the noise that has been predicted to exceed acceptable levels.

"Modelling predicts that the introduction of the proposed conveyer and possible reconfiguration of the infrastructure within the infrastructure area envelope introduce impacts at four identified assessment locations to the southwest." Vol.1p. 36

Two of those four locations belong to us. Locations No. 43 and 44.

are our residences at "Noise levels are predicted to be above possible acquisition levels." Vol. 1 p. 36

It is also predicted that we will experience "Sleep Disturbance" at both residences. Vol. 1 p. 44

3) Construction Noise.

We will be affected by construction noise especially during 4-6pm. Elisabeth is a schoolteacher who works at home at this time. Construction will also reduce our air quality.

4) Air quality.

Cumulative air quality is greatly affecting our lives in this area. We are concerned that when Mt. Pleasant starts operations the cumulative air quality will continue to be a problem. The proposed conveyer and service road near our boundary will only add to the disappointing air quality results.

Jonathan B. Moore
25/10/10.



PCU016017

To.

MINING AND INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Department of Planning
Received

27 OCT 2010

Scanning Room

MARK & MARIA PEEL

234 ROXBURGH RD

MUSWELLBROOK

2333 NSW

THIS IS MY SUBMISSION ON THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION.
TO MOUNT PLEASANT PROJECT.

MODIFICATION APPLICATION NUMBER (DA 92/97 MOD 1)

REASONS FOR OBJECTING TO THE MODIFICATION

CUMULATIVE NOISE ASSESSMENT, DID NOT INCLUDE MANGOOKA COAL
MINE TO THE WEST OF OUR PROPERTY, NOISE FROM CONVEYOR
BELT AND ROLLERS DID NOT INCLUDE MOBILE PLANT NOISE.

TRAIN LOADING AT BENGALLA MINE WOULD HAVE TO RUN CONTINUOUSLY
TO LOAD COAL FROM BENGALLA AS WELL AS MOUNT PLEASANT MINES
WHICH WILL AFFECT OUR PROPERTY.

THE LIFE OF THE MINE SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED BY TWO YEARS
BECAUSE THE PROJECT SHOULD HAVE STARTED ON TIME.

VISUAL IMPACTS ON PROPERTY FROM CONVEYOR BELT.

DUST FROM COAL ON CONVEYOR BELT, WHERE THE BELT CHANGES
DIRECTION AND THE SURGE BIN.

VIBRATION FROM CONVEYOR BELT AND ROLLERS.

PROPERTY 263 IS ON MOUNT PLEASANT'S ACQUISITION LIST. OUR PROPERTY 259
IS 600 METERS FROM BOUNDARY OF 263, AND THE MINE TOLD US WE WON'T
BE AFFECTED AT ALL, WHICH I DO NOT BELIEVE.

m.l. Peel

Received 3/11/10

Woodburn
Dorset Rd
Muswellbrook
NSW 2333

Mining and Industry Projects,
Department of Planning,
GPO Box39,
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Fax (02) 9228 6466

Re: Mount Pleasant Coal Modification

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to object to the proposed modifications on the grounds that the project negotiated in 1999 has not commenced and that our understanding of the severity of global impacts of climate change from burning fossil fuels (and other sources) is now more clearly understood.

Other cumulative impacts such as air pollution, groundwater disruption and contamination will impact on the health and productivity of the local population.

As a biology teacher I am well aware of the short term trade-offs that are being made when we sacrifice our land and environment.

Muswellbrook is already suffering accommodation shortages and shiftwork is not conducive to harmonious family life.

Yours sincerely



Wendy G Wales

SUZIE ROSE WORTH
6 Osborn Crescent
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324
Phone: 0427 102 116

29 October 2010

Mining & Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000
(Sent by email: plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Mount Pleasant Coal Mine – Modification
Application Number: DA92/97 MOD1

I write to express my opposition to the Mt Pleasant mine and proposed modification.

As a concerned member of the Hunter Aboriginal community who works in the Upper Hunter area, I am very concerned about the progress of this mine, the continual destruction of tangible Aboriginal cultural heritage and the many mines that are encroaching upon the Upper Hunter Valley.

I note that the Development Consent for Mt Pleasant was granted in 1999 – some 11 years ago. Since that time many mines have established in the Hunter. The environmental impact assessment that accompanied the original consent is clearly out of date – not only with today's environmental standards but also with community attitudes and the impacts of mines that have in this intervening period established operations in the Upper Hunter.

To our knowledge, a cumulative impact assessment on both environmental and health implications of this mine and proposed mines in the near vicinity has not been undertaken.

It is my/our view that mining in the Hunter has reached saturation point. The impact on our community, environment and health of all residents needs to be properly and fully assessed before the Government approves further mining in the area.

Although I have been disappointed with the NSW Labor Party's record of approvals of new mining development applications, in May of this year we were heartened by Premier Keneally's attention to the increasing conflicts between mining and other land uses in our region. I applaud her understanding of the community health and environmental issues that would have been compromised if the South Bickham coal mine was to be given the go-ahead. I welcomed and publicly supported her decision to prohibit mining at Bickham.

That decision gave us heart so that we could end over ten years of uncertainty and move forward with our lives and our businesses.

Now another cluster of mines, including Mt Pleasant and proposals for Dartbrook, Doyles Creek and West Muswellbrook threaten to undermine all the confidence that the Premier instilled in our community.

The Mt Pleasant mine is another example of a decision that has taken over ten years to resolve while lives and investments in the community have been put on hold.

The threats to our air quality and water security and health are manifold when they are considered in conjunction with the cumulative effects resulting from the cluster of mines in this area. We have not been advised of the cumulative effects this and other mining proposals will have on our region, for one reason or another, these continue to be swept under the carpet.

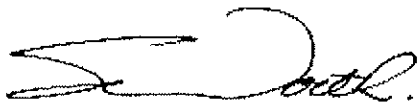
In addition to water and air quality, we are very concerned about the risks to our health, the impact on road and rail infrastructure, the social and health support services and the impact on employment in our region.

The Bickham Planning Assessment Commission provided the public with an opportunity to comment on mining operations that will affect their future and the character of their community. Lessons should be learnt from this exercise and the findings and concerns resulting from the public inquiry should be addressed in all future mine development applications. The same community and environmental impacts having previously occurred because of the mining practices will always be an increasing domino affect within the Upper Hunter region.

We respectfully demand that the NSW Government appoints a Planning Assessment Commission to undertake a review of the cumulative effects of the cluster of mines, including Mt Pleasant, Doyles Creek and other mine proposals west of Muswellbrook before final decisions are made on these individual planning proposals.

Our health, the health of our environment and the future of our community depends on it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzie Worth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

SUZIE WORTH
Indigenous Archaeologist