



PCU049275

Gregory John & Ann Maree Davies

259 Bonehams Lane

WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

5 November 2013

Executive Director

Major Projects Assessment

Department of Planning & Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



Subject: **OBJECTIONS TO COWAL GOLD MINE EXTENSION MODIFICATION**

Dear Sir

We are hereby submitting our objection to the proposed extension of Cowal Gold Mine located Lake Cowal region West Wyalong.

We would like to put forward the following issues in support of our objection:-

IMPACTS ON OUR LIVES

- We are the current owners of property "West Lea" located at 259 Bonehams Lane West Wyalong and we are the closest residential property to the mine. We purchased the property in September 1983 and raised our five children on the farm.
- Over the years we have made major improvements to both the homestead and the infrastructure eg new shearing shed valued at today's values \$100,00.00 to replace – 2 x 80 tonne silos at todays value \$15,000.00 each – sheep yards at todays value \$15,000.00 and extension of the machinery shed at today's value \$20,000.00.
- Over the years we have witnessed family farms being sold up and our whole farming community has become isolated. We use to have such a friendly community with social gatherings but these have been lost due to the fact that many of the farming families have left the district – we no longer leave our property unlocked due to the fact that we do not know who will be travelling along the major mine road and who may have access to our property.
- Our property "West Lea" was not represented in the initial Environmental Impact Statement dated November 1997. At this stage which was 16 years ago, we as landholders did not put in any complaints as we did not realise the impact that this would have on our lives.
- We have enclosed a photo of the view of the mine from our property. We as landholders used to have a view of the Lake Cowal now this is obstructed by a massive large wall and this will profoundly get worse, as this mine will extend its life as much as possible.

- We enclose with this letter a copy of a letter we had all intentions of submitting in relation to the Proposed Modification Cowal Gold Mine in September 2008 but chose not to do this as Barrick put forward this proposal - the enclosed West Lea Options (6 years) for Consideration signed by Bill Shalvey and after consulting with our solicitors Gordon Garling and Moffitt Grenfell - we were advised that this was not a formal offer. We enclose a copy of same for your records. As you will see from the enclosed letter the impact that Barrick Mines had on our lives in 2008 and over the years this impact has increased.
- As is noted in our letter enclosed we are concerned about the 4.5 kilometres of fire risk beside our property being Barrick's Native Revegetation Area, with no fire management control methods in place and it would only take a mistake of one person travelling along the major thoroughfare or a lightning strike our homestead is in direct line of the fire; and everyone has seen in the last few weeks the devastation that a fire can cause to our country and our livelihoods.
- My wife, Ann Maree was employed by Barrick Mines during the construction stage of the mine as a part time employee but once the construction stage had ceased her employment was terminated - she was advised that her job was no longer available - this was not true as her position was taken over by another staff member whom she had to train - we believe that this offer of employment was to keep the locals quiet while the construction stage was causing havoc to our lives.

NOISE LEVELS

- West Lea Noise Monitoring started from September 2007 with a high rate of noise
- I have personally purchased a Digitech Sound Level Meter, Level range 30-130 dB with an accuracy of +/- 0.5 dB; Class 2. I calibrated this with a company SLR Clerance Terraz. On this monitor I have recorded readings above 42dB numerous of times within the last six (6) months. The noise is very annoying - it is a constant rumble all night and day - at times the noise gets that loud that windows cannot be opened and fans and air conditioners have to be used to drown out the noise - it sounds like a heavy vehicle driving around your property all night
- We have been monitoring machine movement over the last five (5) years to show that when noise monitoring periods eg January/July are scheduled for our property that the machinery is moved to the farthest point away from any noise monitoring sites. These records should be accessible in the Freedom of Information Act, because it doesn't hold any threat of past information of machinery movements to the mining operation of Barrick Cowal.
- The last twelve (12) months there has been no tailing ponds/cyanide ponds wall lifts and when noise monitoring were present on our property, the trucks and dozers were at the most centralist part of the mine dumping off their loads (not on top of the waste and ore dumps hills such as at a normal operation procedure).
- From January 2014 there would be a start of eighteen (18) months of tailing pond lifts for the north and south ponds. This is a deliberate attempt to obscure the noise monitoring results for 2013 for the application of the extension of the life of the mine.

Barrick has taken away our way of live – our quiet existence and has replaced it with constant traffic on the road – noise coming from both the mine site and the major thoroughfare – lights shining in our windows all night through – our view we now only see a huge mound of dirt – Barrick personnel entering our property without prior notice or our permission - therefore intruding on our privacy – we did not ask for this and did not expect this when we purchased our property thirty (30) years ago.

We hope that you consider our objections when making your decision as this will impact on our lives in a major way.

We note once again that our home is the closest owner occupied residence to the mine site, being less than two (2) kilometres from the Cowal Gold Mine site. We have probably been more impacted from the Cowal Gold Mine than any other land holder.

Yours faithfully

 
Gregory John & Ann Maree Davies



Cow. 400.05.3093AF

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WEST WYALONG NSW 2671
NSW AUSTRALIA

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23 September 2013

Executive Director
Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 139
SYDNEY NSW 2001 →

Please note incorrect
address on Barrick
letter.

Attention: Chris Wilson

Dear Chris,

RE: COWAL GOLD MINE EXTENSION MODIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The enclosed Environmental Assessment for the Cowal Gold Mine Extension Modification (the Modification) has been prepared on our behalf by Resource Strategies Pty Ltd.

Barrick (Cowal) Limited (Barrick) believes the Environmental Assessment represents an accurate statement of Barrick's development intentions and commitments in regard to environmental management and monitoring for the Modification.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on (02) 6975 4707.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. Fearon'.

ALAN FEARON
GENERAL MANAGER
COWAL GOLD MINE

Gregory & Ann Maree Davies
West Lea
259 Bonehams Lane
WEST WYALONG NSW 2671

19 September 2008

Major Development Assessment
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au

Subject: Proposed Modification Cowal Gold Mine

Dear Sir

We as local landholders in the Lake Cowal district wish to lodge our submission against the proposed modification to Cowal Gold Mine.

We have been land holders and residents of the property Westlea, West Wyalong, located in the Lake Cowal district for 23 years, we are the closest local and Barrick occupied and unoccupied resident to Cowal Gold Mine. We purchased the land in September 1983.

Prior to the mine being established in our district we had a quite existence, but after the mine's approval we have experienced major changes to our lives. Surrounding neighbours have left the district (due to the mine purchasing their properties), a massive increase in traffic on the roads, noise coming from both the mine site and the major thoroughfare, dust and the lights that shine all night through our bedroom windows.

We have had numerous discussions with Barrick representatives over the past five years in regard to the noise that we experienced during the construction of the mine and the existing operations of the mines. According to the Cowal Gold Mine Modified Year 7 and Year 9 Predicted Intrusive Noise Contours we will be located in the 40-45 decibel. These noise contours don't give any further noise predictions pass year 9, (and these are only predictions) as the tailings dam walls ,waste dumps become higher in elevation, intrusive noise will become much more prominent.

The noise contour in the initial environmental impact statement (pre construction and mining) only put Westlea residence in a range of 10 to 15 dbA, a major difference compared to a predicted in year 7 and year 9 of 40 to 45 dbA.

We currently experience noise coming from the mine site itself from the mill and the operation of the trucks. The noise we experience is similar in volume to a truck or vehicle driving around your property all night. This noise constantly intrudes on our family's sleep. We also experience noise from the main road, from semi-trailers making deliveries to the mine between the hours of 10.00 pm and 6.00 am.

Because of our complaints in regard to the noise, to the Cowal Gold Mine representatives, we had only three noise monitoring periods, being September07, January08 and July08, within these times we will explain how we think that these reports have been manipulated by Barrick moving machinery to different locations of work and times to give an inconclusive noise report.

During the September noise monitoring period, a week prior to the monitoring, the commencement time for work being carried out on the southern tailing dam lift, was 6.00 am but during this period of one month, during which the noise monitoring was being conducted, the work on the southern tailing dam lift commenced at 7.00 am. After this monthly period of noise monitoring the starting time went back to 6.00 am starts. This was only one week after the noise monitoring equipment had been collected from our property.

Whilst the January noise reporting period was being conducted, two weeks prior to the noise monitoring commencing, the contractors working on the southern tailings dam moved to the northern bank of the southern tailing dam and worked there for a period of 6 weeks, then when the noise monitoring had ceased, two weeks later the contractors returned to the southern bank of the tailings dam (the closest to our property West Lea), to continue with the lift.

When the July noise monitoring started, three days prior to this date, the contractors had finished the lift on the southern tailings dam.

We believe these coincidence of work related to the noise monitoring was too coincidental.

In regard to the continuation of the raising of the tailing dam walls, the height of these walls will be 40 metres above the exiting landscape thus causing an eye sore from our property and it is already devaluing the value of our property.

Another one of our concerns is the 4.5 kilometres of fire risk beside our property West Lea and Barrick's Native Revegetation Area, with no fire management control methods in place.

We once again state that our home is the closest owner occupied residence to the mine site, being less than 2 kilometres from the Cowal Gold Mine site. We have probably been more impacted from the Cowal Gold Mine than any other land holder.

We note that we have had many meetings regarding our concerns and thus therefore are submitting this submission in regard to the modification of the mine site, as we see it with the increase life expectancy of the Cowal Gold Mine site our concerns have greatly increased.

We have been talking to Barrick representatives recently and supposedly are in negotiation but this has only been indicated to us verbally. These discussions occurred three to four weeks ago but we have not heard from the Barrick representatives to this date.

Yours faithfully

Greg and Ann Maree Davies

WESTLEA OPTIONS (6 YEARS) FOR CONSIDERATION.

This is not a formal offer from Barrick, but a draft for mutual consideration.

0 - 3 Years

"Option" Purchase price is the higher of the two Valuations \$600,000 (if exercised within Yr 1), + 3% = \$618,000 (within Yr 2) + 3% = \$626,540 (within Yr 3)

Option Deposit is \$ 25,000 (non-refundable if not exercised within 3 years).

Option can be exercised by paying the balance of 10% Deposit \$ 35,000 (if exercised within Yr 1), \$ 36,800 (within Yr 2) \$ 38,653 (within Yr 3)

4 - 6 Years

"Option" Purchase price \$655,636 (if exercised within Yr 4), + 3% = \$675,305 (within Yr 5) + 3% = \$695,564 (within Yr 6)

Option Deposit is \$ 65,563 (non-refundable if not exercised within the 6 years).

Option can be exercised by paying the balance of 10% Deposit \$ Nil (if exercised within Yr 4), \$1,966 (within Yr 5) \$ 3,992 (within Yr 6)

Corally
18/3/09.