

Ashton Mine

Modification to Ashton Mine South East Open Cut Project

This modification appears to be a blatant attempt for the Proponent to dodge their obligations to the people of Camberwell

- Even the Planning Department acknowledges that the community of Camberwell has suffered irreparable damage through the unfettered growth and lax monitoring of this mine.
- The Proponent by seeking to put their own date on what constitutes the start of the Project will have the effect of further delay acquisition rights for the community. This is a gross violation of social justice for a community that has suffered too much and too long! Cumulative effects of the vastly increased mining activity are being ignored and those who want to leave are stranded without what should be their rights to acquisition.
- The health effects of excess dust and noise have been ignored and breaches allowed. It is entirely reasonable that citizens be given the wherewithal to get out if they wish.

This modification also seems to be an attempt to extend the theoretical time in which the lease would expire because of the inability to acquire the Bowman property "Rosedale"

- If no activity takes place for 5 years, the lease expires. Any sensible interpretation would deem "activity" to mean ongoing project activity not fiddling with the wording of the Consent and allowing such "fiddling" to be deemed a "Modification" constituting project activity.
- There is real concern as well-explained by Wendy Bowman, that this enormous encroachment of the land will have massive impacts on drainage in the event of significant storm-water overflows into the creek.
- Such overflow will be at the alluvial level threatening ground-water

For all of the above this "Modification" should be disallowed despite the assurance by Howard Reed that;

(The Department) "would consider amending the approval upon receiving an application to modify the Project to amend these conditions to address the concerns raised by MinterEllison."

Such cynical collusion is to be deplored.

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