

24th July 2014

Mr Chris Wilson
Executive Director, Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Environment
Level 4, 23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: OBJECTION to Duralie Coal Open Pit Modification, Environmental Assessment to modify approval 08_0203.

I object to Duralie Coal (a promised 8 year Boutique mine) again seeking approval for another modification to expand their open cut pit and alter their Conditions of Consent, "*approximately 2.5 hectares*" they reference in their EA, under Part 3A referenced as Section 75W. They are/have removing/removed areas of bushland that were to remain as irrigation land on either side of Duralie Road. Duralie Coal states this modification will "*improve the geotechnical stability of the open pit low walls*". I object to what I believe is an ulterior motive to remove the small coal seam present, by leading us all to believe that this modification is needed and necessary "*to improve the geotechnical stability of the open pit low walls*". I question their mining safety/practices in causing a problem of wall collapse and/or potential wall collapse, should this modification not be given approval. Yancoal/Duraliecoal's own documentation states "*without the modification, waste emplacement at the DCM would be constrained and a portion of the coal reserves approved to be extracted from the Weismantel and Clareval open pits until 2019 would be forgone, resulting in a truncation of the mine life*".

Duralie Coal continues to impact private properties in the valley and this will be further escalated should the mine be given approval.

I object to Duralie Coal seeking approval to increase the depth of the Clareval Open Pit and remove pillars, which automatically produces more "overburden", dust, noise and the removal of further bushland & wildlife death.

I object to 'mining Companies terminology' their modifications "involves minor changes", when in reality Duralie Coal is causing devastation wherever they remove bushland/wildlife, mountains, valley & creeks e.g. Coalshaft Creek, which flows dirty orange/brown water and Unnamed Creek that flowed black water directly into Mammy Johnsons River, Karuah River to Port Stephens, leaving these areas removed entirely and/or impacted for all time!

I object to Duralie Coal being approved to mine coal in areas of mountains & natural bushland where small (powder puff) coal seams are present and considering the amount of "overburden" Duralie Coal produces each day should not be seen to be economically viable at all.

I object to Duralie Coal being given further approval to build the "overburden dump" up higher, which already causes dreadful dust impacts coming straight off the overburden dump area of Duralie Coal pit, which swiftly moves up the valley as the ocean breeze from Port Stephens drives the dust North up the Gloucester-Stroud Valley.

I request that the Department refuses approval of this modification and any further modifications to operate.

Yours faithfully

Sydney Woodhouse of [REDACTED] *Bellingen NSW 2454*