

LUKE GERATHY
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OBJECTION AND SUBMISSION to CADIA East Gold/Copper Project
MODIFICATION No 14

OBJECTION

DRAFT. MP06-0295-Mod 14

19/2/2021

Submission by : Luke Gerathy, Director – Hamdaisy P/L

Background

My family has owned and operated Errowanbang (property No 54 in Figure 1-2b) for approximately 50 years, originally by my Grandparents Roy and Gwenda Gerathy, currently by my parents John and Hilde Gerathy and eventually it is our family's intention that I will own and operate our family farm. I recall many conversations with my grandparents, expressing their concerns over the potential negative environmental impact of the mine on our farm, our neighbours and community, on the amenity of the area and in particular to our critical water resource and environmental life blood, Flyers Creek.

Position

I recognise that Newcrest's Cadia East Development and Operations have been a key and critical component to the revisitation of the economic fortunes of the district. Further to which I support the continued operation at current levels of the Cadia East operation.

I do have serious concerns in relation to expansion of the productivity of the mine, the increase in capacity to the tailings dam and the development of the sodium hydrosulphide plant, for the following reasons:

1. Timing and Notification - Public Exhibition of the Application
2. Negative impact on the critical water resources
3. Negative impact on the health and well being of the local residents due to dust emissions and pollution

Timing and Notification - Public Exhibition of the Application

The timing of the notification process to the community was at best poorly considered or poorly managed (get it off my desk before Christmas) and at worst strategically manipulated by the applicant to ensure the community is in the poorest position to respond appropriately and seek expert advice during the process.

Our family did not receive any formal notification of the exhibition from the DPI&E or the applicant. The ability of the community to seek professional advice for the relevant experts was absolutely inhibited by the timing of the release of the exhibition. *It is my view that this was a calculated position taken by the applicant and should be reconsidered by the DPI&E in relation to the appropriateness of the governance of this process to allow meaningful community participation in the process.*

Negative impact on the Critical Water Resources

The impact of the current operations regarding the current water usage rates is a key concern both environmentally and agriculturally for the community and our family. We have all experienced first hand the devastating impacts of the recent prolonged period of drought on our water resources as well as on the ecosystems and biodiversity of the Belubula River system including Flyers Creek which our family farm relies heavily on for water, both domestically and operationally.

Our creek, Flyers Creek, stopped flowing for the first time in our 50 year history of stewardship of Errowngbang. The river system is struggling to sustain the environmental and agricultural demands of the water resource at the current levels of production at Cadia East which draws some 160ml a day out of it. The increase in production proposed will require an additional 16ml/day. 16 Olympic swimming pools of water per day.

I have serious concerns about the proposal in relation to its reliance on efficiencies of the PTSF to meet that additional demand. I believe that the demand increase will be met if not in total at least partially by the river system. Whether that be through extraction during periods of "free flow" (flood) or through the continued purchasing of water licences by the applicant downstream of the site. The unrestricted "free flow" extraction of the resource has been proven to be hugely detrimental to the environment and ecosystem in the Murray Darling System and should be closely considered in this application.

The additional extraction of "normal flow" resources (regardless of the licencing) is not sustainable and should not be considered as appropriate. The impact of increasing the extraction at the site will be acutely felt by the local residents and those reliant on Flyers Creek in particular.

Negative impact on the health and well being of the local residents due to dust emissions and pollution

For several years there has been a high level of community concern in regard to the long term risks to health resulting from the air borne pollution generated by CVO activities.

The NSW Government has recognised and implemented serious legislative and statutory measures to address the health impact of Silica Dust on persons exposed to those pollutants. Silica Dust and other airborne pollutants are generated by the operations at the Cadia East site. The management of the dust developed by those operations is solely the responsibility of Newcrest and they have repeatedly and regularly failed to manage that over the past 25 years of operating that site. Our farm, built assets, machinery, homes, sheds, vehicles are regularly covered in the distinctive fine grey dust that generates from the tailings dam and operations of the mine. If Newcrest can not manage this currently how is it conceivable that with increased production they can manage the situation.

The risk is real, and it is not being adequately managed now !!! Increased production can only result in an increase of this risk to our community!!!

Formal Position

I OBJECT to the following items of the MOD 14 Application Report as below:

- the proposal to increase the approved production rate from 32 Mtpa to 35 Mtpa.
- the proposal to upgrade processing capacity to 35Mtpa.
- the proposed construction works on the NTSF and STSF.
- the construction and operation of a sodium hydrosulphide plant without full SSDA and EPA consideration and approval, including the commitment to treat and manage odours from the plant.

Declaration

I declare I have not made any financial or other contributions to any political party in the past two years.

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