

I object to the proposed Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) South Modification 5.

The proposal forecasts increased impacts at our residence. I am most concerned about the increased noise that is predicted.

The Environmental Assessment predicts that the noise will exceed the Project Specific Noise Limit (PSNL) at our property by ≥ 2 dB. To operate at this level without mitigation, the Company is required to have controls in place. These controls are not functioning.

- 1) HVO were required to install a noise monitor under a previous consent. Over time through several modifications they had the requirement removed. HVO never utilized the monitor properly, blaming other sources as to reasons why noise was excessive. Recently they moved the monitor and upgraded it to a directional monitor. Now they have admitted verbally to us that they have had to modify operations based on this monitor.
- 2) My wife and I have lodged complaints many times with HVO. We can sit in our living room and hear the mine noise over a television or lie in bed and hear it through closed windows. Responses to complaints have included blaming other mines. I can very clearly hear which mine the noise comes from. I am not supposed to act as a noise monitor for the Company. Now they have finally fixed noise monitoring, they only modify operations after we complain.
- 3) HVO have not sound suppressed their mining fleet. I can clearly hear trucks accelerating and dozer tracks rattling. Condition 9 of the HVO consent requires HVO to implement best practice to minimise operational noise. This has not been done.

HVO have treated us with contempt. They have blamed other mines for their noise, modify operations after we complain rather than proactively and have not complied with their consent. They should not be entitled to plan to operate at ≥ 2 dB at our property without mitigation.