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Your ref: Maules Creek Coal Project (DA-85/1819)

10 October 2011

Director of Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Stephen O'Donoghue

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission
Proposed Maules Creek Coal Project DA-85/1819
Proponent: Aston Coal 2 Pty Ltd

We refer to the application for the Proposed Maules Coal Mine, DA-85/1819 (the “**Project**”) and accompanying documents currently on public exhibition which seeks approval of the Maules Creek Coal Mine.

We understand the application affects our properties and wish to object to the project.

We own the following properties:

- 1 “Tarrawonga” which comprises:
 - (a) Lots 3, 4 and 5 in deposited plan 11312828; and
 - (b) Lot 121 in deposited plan 754926
- 2 “Callandar” which comprises lots 145, 149, 186 and 206 in deposited plan 754926
- 3 “East Callandar” which comprises lots 1 and 2 in DP 868635

The Tarrawonga Property is referenced to in the Maules Creek Environmental Assessment, along with the Braymont & Barbers Lagoon Roads.

We make the following submissions in relation to the Project application.

The residence located on the property Tarrawonga is located approximately 2km from the Tarrawonga Coal Project. The Tarrawonga farm falls in to the zone of affectation of the Tarrawonga and the Boggabri Coal mines and Callandar residence I believe falls into the management zone of the Boggabri Mine and probably the Tarrawonga Mine. Tarrawonga farm appears to also fall into the zone of affectation for the Aston Maules Creek project.

We are concerned that the cumulative impacts will be more than what we are presently subjected to in regard to noise, dust, lighting and extra traffic on local roads.

The proposed heavy vehicle access road to the Aston Mine site using the Braymont and Barbers Lagoon Road also concerns us. This road is a travelling stock route and is used by us and neighbouring landholders to frequently shift our cattle between properties. Our Callandar cottage is approximately 100m and Callandar Homestead approximately 300m to the north of Braymont Road we object to Aston using this road when there is already an access/haul road going through our Tarrawonga farm from Gunnedah to the existing mine sites.

The Braymont and Barbers Lagoon roads are subject to severe flooding from the Bollol and Driggle Draggie Creek systems and from the Namoi River via Barbers Lagoon. The road can sometimes be cut by flooding for several weeks. The road is a narrow, dusty gravel road with overhanging river gums. The culverts are old, one being timber. Slow moving oversize agricultural machinery is transported on these roads as a link between properties.

We do not need a second coal mine access road on our doorstep!

The social impacts of mining in our part of the valley are taking their toll with many farmers leaving the district. We realise that we cannot stop the mining in our valley, but we do need to be protected in the future from quick decisions now impacting on our farming business which has been sustainable and has been operating in this valley for 151 years.

Yours faithfully

Robert McGregor
(also on behalf of Rhonda McGregor)