

To whom it may concern,

I object to Modification 4 of the Maules Creek Coal Mine with regards to condition 12(a) of Project Approval 10_0138. The Dept. of Planning has already let the community down by failing to take into account community concerns and objections prior to the mine being approved resulting in the totally inappropriate development of the mine.

The main objection I have is that during the environmental assessment and approvals process Whitehaven Coal obviously lied and/or provided misleading information to lessen the impacts of its mine development and therefore obtain approval with the intention of then obtaining modifications to water down conditions once the project was up and running.

This has been shown to be the case regarding the Traffic Management Plan that was submitted in the approvals process and subsequently modified as they had no intention and made no attempt to comply with certain conditions contained within it, most notably with regard to the use of shuttle buses to transport workers and reduce the impact on the local roads.

The noise modelling in the EA was overly optimistic and has been shown to be so by the level of non-compliance with these conditions. This along with the attempt to disregard levels that are 2dB above approved levels as a breach should not be allowed to justify the modification from that already approved.

Maules Creek mine is expected in the next twelve months to reach the peak of its noise impact on the surrounding community. This is not a time to be watering down requirements for the mine to take any and all actions to reduce the noise burden it is inflicting on the Maules Creek community. The Rejection of this modification must demand compliance with the Approval Conditions and a stop on the depopulating of the local community as a way to achieve noise compliance.

The argument that money would be better spent on other mitigation measures is false. Money must be spent on achieving the sound power level condition as well as the other mitigation strategies – as long as these strategies don't involve the lowering of health outcomes or the removal of farming and community members.

This company must be held to their commitments and promises they made to the local community and the wider community of NSW when it obtained its approval, not be given a free pass by government because they can't achieve the conditions of that approval. Whitehaven made their bed when they submitted false and misleading information to get their approval and now they must lie in it.

Regards
Scott Daines