

This submission is an objection to the Maules Creek Coal Mine Modification 4 submitted on behalf of Armidale Action on Coal Seam Gas and Mining (AACSG&M). Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

AACSG&M believes that, since the mine is expanding considerably to the west and north, the impact of the mines on farms and residences in the immediate vicinity can only increase the need for more protection not less. This applies to both noise and dust.

Since the State Government is always reassuring us that there are strict regulations in place governing mining operations then, to retain credibility, the Government should be resisting watering down these regulations and be seen to be enforcing them; especially as Whitehaven Coal as not been able to comply with the existing rules.

Maules Creek Coal Environmental Protection licence has recently been down-graded to level 3 – only the 3 worst out of 49 coal mines in New South Wales have this bottom of the ladder status, confirming less than desirable environmental performance.

AACSG&M demands serious consideration of the future ramifications of any modification of the existing regulations.