

“Reclaiming our Valley”

Hunter Communities Network

PO Box 14 Singleton 2330

Matthew Riley
Assessment Planner
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Monday 9 October 2017

**Submission of Objection
Maules Creek Coal Mine Modification 4
Sound Power Levels**

The Hunter Communities Network (HCN) is an alliance of community based groups and individuals impacted by the current coal industry and concerned about the ongoing rapid expansion of coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining in the region.

HCN strongly objects to this proposal to alter conditions of consent relating to the management of mine noise in remote rural communities.

The Maules Creek Coal Mine was approved after a lengthy assessment process. The issue of noise impacts on the surrounding rural community was a key issue for the project.

A condition to manage sound power levels of fixed and mobile machinery at the mine was based on the modelling inputs used for the project noise assessment and was the basis of the project approval.

HCN cannot support the removal of Schedule 3 Condition 12a as proposed in this fourth modification of the Maules Creek approval.

The operation must be managed under the criteria used in the noise model. The Planning Assessment Commission required the sound power levels to be improved over the period of mining. The Department of Planning and Environment has a responsibility to protect the health of surrounding landholders from the impacts of mine noise.

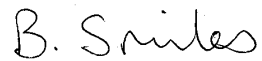
HCN strongly objects to this modification because it sets a precedent in the management of mine noise. It removes an important condition that recognizes the impact of 24 hour mining operations

in remote rural areas where the background noise level is well below the artificial baseline of 30 decibels as set by the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

There is no justification provided for this proposal. It must be rejected as a backward step in the management of mine noise.

Too many regional communities in the Hunter and North West have been severely impacted by noise pollution from 24 hour opencut mining operations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Smiles".

Bev Smiles
Convenor