

Geoff Hunter
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Boggabri 2382

11th October 2017

Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
carolyn.mcnally@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms McNally,

Re: Maules Creek coal mine Project Application Number: 10_0138 Mod 4

The proponent Whitehaven Coal, are seeking to remove a section from Condition 12a, Schedule 3 from Planning Approval 10_0138 regarding the Maules Creek coal mine. That is the deletion of the wording and requirement to-

“ensure that all equipment and noise control measures deliver sound power levels that are equal to or better than the sound power levels identified in the EA, and correspond to best practice or the application of the best available technology economically achievable;”

I objects to the Mod 4 and Whitehaven Coal removing a specific requirement for continuous environmental noise improvement by maintaining or reducing mining equipment sound power.

It is my understanding that noise limits are already continuously being breached by Whitehaven and so a reduction should not even be considered on these grounds alone. On top of this the mine expansion will mean it comes closer to my property and so noise will be getting worse for my family and I without an increase in the noise limit.

If Whitehaven cannot adhere to the conditions under which the mine was allowed maybe we should go back and have another look at whether the mine should have been approved in the first place. Rules are rules and these were some of the original issues we initially had regarding this mine and which Whitehaven agreed to limit and now once the mine is running they want to simply amend and reduce their requirements.

Please stop this creep in the goal posts and ensure Whitehaven are made accountable for what they agreed in the initial approval.

I believe that this will be bad for my family and strongly urge support the rejection of this Modification 4.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Hunter