

9 October 2017

Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
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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 object to the Mod 4 and Whitehaven Coal removing a specific requirement for continuous environmental noise improvement by maintaining or reducing mining equipment sound power.

1. The audacity of Whitehaven Coal to seek modification of their approval conditions to operate the mine with imposed noise levels is indicative of the way the mine operates. The Mine continues to deny its infringements but has recently had its Environmental Protection Licence downgraded to Level 3- one of the three worst of 49 mines in NSW. The fact that the Department would waste valuable work time and money on this incredible.
2. Living beside a coal mine has proven to impose its presence on all family members and visitors. A good sleep is never assured. The roar is unimaginable- anytime of day or night.
3. I strongly object to the request from Maules Creek Coal to operate on “TRUST”- there is no evidence that any consideration is given to community.
4. The Mandatory Noise Audit determined that our property – while outside the official noise impact contours is in direct line of site (from my kitchen window) to the mine and is noise impacted.
5. With the mines getting closer we need continuous improvement applied to intrusive low frequency noise emitters- including the fixed plant and equipment and continuous improvements using best available technology. In other words- more protection for our property value and the health and welfare of the people living here – not less.
6. Indeed Whitehaven Coal has no social licence.

This submission is an objection to the Maules Creek Coal Mine Modification.

Yours sincerely

