

12th 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 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. I disagree that a mine can be approved under specific conditions and then seek to change these conditions to support its continuous noncompliance.

Being that the mine is seeking to expand, it is paramount that more stringent noise control measures are exercised not more lenient requirements.

This will be detrimental for the community surrounding Maules Creek, and will make the whole planning assessment look like a joke if this is granted.

As the Department of Planning ignored the community's rejection of the mine and has consequently led to the mine being ranked as one of the worst in the State as far as environmental protection. The Department now has an obligation to ensure that Whitehaven Coal adheres to its compliance requirements, not allow changes to the requirements to suit Whitehaven Coal.

I strongly support the rejection of this Modification 4, and expect that the wishes of the local community be heard and respected.

Thank you for your consideration.