

10 October 2017

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

Dear Carolyn,

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

I am writing to let you know of my objection to the proponent of the Maules Creek Coal Mine (MCCM)- Whitehaven Coal (WHC), seeking to remove a section from Condition 12a, Schedule 3 from Planning Approval 10_0138 regarding the Maules Creek coal mine.

I object to the removal of wording;

“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;”

It appears WHC feels it is easier and cheaper to change their consent conditions than the independent PAC imposed then fix the issue, and remembering they gave promises and commitments to the community and Government they would undertake without doubt and without fail

In our town, Boggabri, this is like moving the goalposts after the game has begun, because you don't want to kick the ball that far.

This is not going to help rebuild the communities trust in WHC, nor respect. Again we see smokescreens-and-mirrors, instead of openness and problem solving. The Boggabri Business and Community Progress Association wrote to the then Minister of the DPE, Hon Rob Stokes MP, 14 November 2016, explaining the concerns the community had in regards to WHC lack of social license and the seemingly refusal to accept responsibility for their acts and omissions.(attached copy)

” There is an inability and reluctance on the part of the mining companies to accept responsibility for the situations that they are creating. The Companies need to take ownership of the problems that they are creating and work proactively with the community to find a solution”

This modification will not help our situation, on the contrary, it may exacerbate the problems even further . i.e. instead of implementing measures to ensure compliance, it allows WHC to feel they can get away with whatever and the community has to just suck it up!

How can the department consider this modification with MCC latest risk rating 3 ,the highest rating and only 1 of 3 issued to projects in NSW.

I am concerned that watering down the communities protections will make WHC disregard their social license even more. Because why do they need one at present?

I respectfully ask you to reject this Modification.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Nancarrow.
"Yarrah", Braemont road,
Boggabri, 2382

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