

12 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 this application made by Whitehaven Coal.

We live in Maules Creek and have been plagued with noise and dust pollution since the Whitehaven Coal Mine began operations. We live to the North of the Mine Complex and have suffered from sleep deprivation, due to the constant noise being emitted from this mine.

I was flabbergasted to hear that Whitehaven Coal, instead of striving to be the responsible mining company it claims to be and to work within the agreed conditions of the approval, are instead requesting they are allowed to exceed the already exceeded limits. Where will this end?

Did Whitehaven Coal lie when they agreed to the conditions? Did they know when they started they would not be able to comply? Was the Noise Modelling provided by Whitehaven Coal in their original Environmental Assessment an entirely truthful report, or was this misleading to allow for the initial approval?

Are they trying to save money by not imposing noise suppression measures? Do they even care about the humans that have to live in the shadow of this mess?

The Maules Creek Mine Mandatory Noise Audit was imposed exactly for this reason, because the Mine does not have a strong record in compliance. I cannot fathom how we will survive the next 30 years in the shadow of this mine if Whitehaven Coal is allowed to continuously exceed their requirements.

The company professes to be a responsible community member – They claim *“Whitehaven has a strong track record of regularly engaging the local communities it operates in throughout the planning, development, operation and closure of its projects.”* (Whitehaven Coal, n.d.) I dispute this. We only hear from them as they try to buy our silence and compliance by paying for select events that do not benefit the community.

A Mandatory Noise Audit revealed that in 2015 and 2016 again, many of the fixed plant at Maules Creek Coal Mine were unable to fulfil the promised noise levels that were provided to the Department to gain approval. I believe Whitehaven Coal should work on noise suppression rather than changing the limits.

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

Sincerely