

## **MOUNT PLEASANT OPTIMISATION PROJECT (SSD 10418)**

**SUBMISSION** By B & L Bates (Property owner of privately owned land ID 47 on the western side boundary of the Mining Lease.

### **OBJECTION**

#### **(1a) Fines Emplacement Area**

The earthen dam wall that was constructed to RL 259.8m by Mach Energy to contain the slurry fines from the Coal Processing Plant and surface water inflows, is of major concern because of its proposed doubling in size for the storage capacity. Will this existing dam satisfy the New South Wales Safety Act 2015, and if the dam is a declared dam, will the dam safety regulation 2019 be implemented? When the dam wall height is increased in six (6) stages to the final R: 298.7m will all the regulations be implemented?

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) states that the Fines Emplacement Area will be made larger by a series of progressive lifts, this will be achieved by raising the existing dam walls to RL298.7m, with approximate surface area of 1066 ha and approximate storage capacity of 36 million mtrs cubed, (which is approximately double the original design capacity).

The raising of Stage 1 Dam wall from RL crest level 259.8m to Stage 6 in Year 2046, RL level at crest of 298.7m is totally unrealistic, as the highest point in the valley where this dam has been built is RL280m!!

(1b). Consent conditions that were granted on 22 December 1999, (File No. N95/00147) (DA 92/97) as per Index 5 Hazardous Materials and Fines Rejects Management state that a review of the Fines Emplacement Area will take place three years after the commencement of production (October 2017). At the conclusion of the five year period (October 2022) from commencement, the Company and Muswellbrook Council shall re-examine the Fines Emplacement Plan, evaluating improved technology and best practice with a view to retaining fines within the active mining areas. Review of the fines emplacement methods is to be undertaken in conjunction with the CCC and DLWC. This may include an independent review by consultants which shall be funded by the Applicant. Will these consent conditions be initiated by the NSW Planning Industry & Environment in conjunction with the Applicant?

(1c). Environmental Dam (ED2) at the outside base of the above Fines Emplacement Dam wall has a very high (water salts) reading of 3,410 EC 2020 reading. Will this be a normal reading and if so, it should not be acceptable.

(1d). All of the above is a concern to us because any over flows or failures will enter Sandy Creek which runs through our property, (and links up with the Hunter River on Mangoola flats). Earthquake possibilities should also be considered in the assessment as they have been detected in this area over the last five years.

(2a). **Water Management**

Mine Water Dam 2 development to the west of the Infrastructure Area was not given consent approval as the Southern Fines Emplacement Area in the original DA 92/97 and DA 2011 approvals.

When has approval been granted to Mount Pleasant Operation to progress with their proposed Mine Water Dam 2?

(3a). **Coal Market Quality and Volume Requirements**

Energy content of product coal from (Mount Pleasant Operations) is not given but assuming it is between 5,000 to 5,500 kilocalories per kilogram and high ash levels, this will need to be up graded to 6,000 kilocalories per kilogram for use in new lower emissions coal fired power technology. Thus, extra coal washing will be required with more fines rejects generated. Mining economics will need to be considered if approval is granted and the placement location/details of the extra fines rejects are dealt with.