

17 March 2021

Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Attention: Lauren Evans

RE: Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project – DA92/97
– **IMPACTS of EXISTING AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - 1510 Wyong Road Castle Rock**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of all owners in relation to the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project and the actual/potential impacts on our property located at 1510 Wyong Road Castle Rock. We declare (all owners) we have made no reportable political donations in the past two years.

We are not officially objecting or supporting the application.

We understand the MACH Energy joint venture optimisation includes but not limited to:

- Increasing the mine life from 2026 to 2048 – an extension of 22 years
- Mining method may change to a dragline after 2026
- Increasing ROM from 10.5 Mtpa to 21 Mtpa – doubling annual coal production
- Increasing waste replacements approximately 340 metres to above 360m (not defined how high they are going)
- Operational workforce increasing from approximately 330 people to over 600 people on average with a peak of 830 people.

We wish to express the adverse impacts the project currently has and may have (with increase severity) for an additional 22 years as the life of the mine was only till 2026.

Overall Environmental Impact

We do not have the professional expertise to adequately assess the thousands of pages of expert reports lodged as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

We request that MACH Energy provide a summary of the potential impacts on our property. These impacts are to include:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Water quality (surface and groundwater)

Once we have this information we will be able to assess if we need to request that we are included in the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP).

Below is an overview of our concerns as they stand without seeking professional advice at our costs.

1. Groundwater Impacts

Groundwater is the only permanent water supply for our stock, hence it is imperative that the groundwater supply is continuously monitored on a monthly basis both for levels and water quality by MACH Energy and at their cost.

We request that copies of the monthly monitoring results (levels and quality) are provided to a nominated representative of the owners on a monthly basis.

If the monitoring shows that:

1. The ground water supply is no longer sufficient to adequately support our farming operations; and /or;
2. The groundwater quality deteriorates to a level that is no longer suitable for stock water than this would have a severe and immediate impact on our farming operations.

We believe the following would be a fair and reasonable request that if either of the above situations occurs:

- (i) We are compensated for the impact of no permanent water supply; and
- (ii) For the mine owner to provide the farming operations with stock water for our livestock for as long as the property remains in the family; and
- (iii) Offer to purchase the entire property in accordance with the VLAMP.

We request that these conditions are included in the Conditions of Consent.

2. Water Mine Storage Failure

We are concerned about the Mine Water Storages and the potential impacts if the storages were to fail, both from flooding impacts and water quality perspectives.

If in the event the water storages fail, we believe it would be a fair and reasonable expectation that we are compensated for the negative impacts this would have on our property. Please include a condition of consent to cover impact on landholders impacted by water storages failing.

3. Noise

Refer to previous request for noise results for the property.

Noise from mining operations can be heard at the property under certain meteorological conditions. If the frequency increases to a point that we are impacted, we request that MACH Energy (mine owner) conduct continuous noise monitoring at our house and undertaken further noise modelling to determine the actual impact.

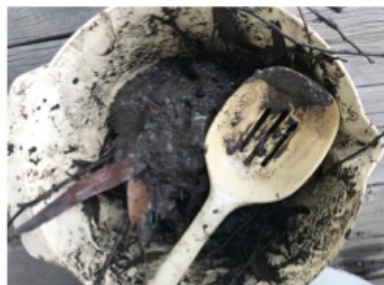
4. Air Quality - Dust

We have tried reading some parts of the Air Quality Impact assessment, it is over 500 pages in length and we do not have the technical expertise (without engaging a suitable professional) to review and provide advice. Refer to previous request for specific results for the property.

The property is adversely impact by coal dust. We have to regularly (every quarter as a minimum) wash/wipe down the entire exterior of the house due to the black coal dust.

The gutters are full coal dust – see photos below from recent cleaning of gutters and coal dust on the roof:

Photograph 1 – Example of Coal dust muck removed from gutters by hand.



Photograph 2 This photo is after cleaning – kilograms of black muck removed. Takes over half a day to clean the perimeter gutter that is accessible via ladder.



We request that the Department include in the Conditions of Consent that MACH Energy is required as part of their dust management strategy to clean (wash down) clean the exterior (walls, roof and gutters) on a quarterly basis at their cost.