

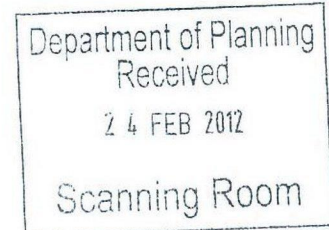


Robert Roy Crosby and Pamela Crosby
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Your ref: Tarrawonga Coal Project

14 Feb. 2012

Director of Major Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam

Submission
Proposed Tarrawonga Coal Project
Proponent: Tarrawonga Coal Project a division of Whitehaven Coal

We refer to the application for the Proposed Tarrawonga Coal Project which seeks approval of the Tarrawonga Coal Project.

We own the following properties:

1. "Northam" which comprises Lots 45, 120, 132, & 166 Deposited Plan 754926.
2. "Kyalla" which comprises Lot 1 Deposited Plan 434333.
3. "Jeralong East" which comprises Lot 12 Deposited Plan 625789.

Both Tarrawonga Coal Project and Boggabri Coal Project have been advised of a (at this time uninhabited) cottage on Jeralong East owned by RR and PL Crosby and an existing building permit DA 158/2008 on Taylor Vale (part Northam) but have not mentioned them in the planning.

We have been building our business up over the years to where we were going to have the cottage renovated to house a stockperson and their family to oversee an expanded mating unit, facilitating the artificial breeding of our stud herd. The building permit, in another corner of the property, was to house another family to oversee the intensified calving of these elite female Angus Cattle. The Kyalla property is currently our bull growing and fodder growing unit, and the business has out grown the Northam homestead block being used as a sales complex and breeding unit as one. Our eleventh annual Bull Sale in July 2011 grossed nearly \$500,000 and our female production sale in October 2011 grossed over 1.1 million.

Our plans for expansion of our business is up in the air now with both the cottage and building permit site in a noise affected zone and air quality affected area for the next

how-ever many years. We don't think this is a viable option now, on this property, it will be difficult to get the right people to live there.

We make the following submissions in relation to the application.

NOISE EMISSIONS:

Predicted Noise Emissions stated on page 4-45 concern receivers (Suey) and (McGregor) but don't mention that well over 25% of both RR & PL Crosby's places (100% Jeralong East and 100% Taylor Vale part /Northam) and BJ Crosby's place (part Jeralong East 50%) are in the Noise Affected zone in maps Year 2 and still in Year 16, Maps 4-10 and 4-11. **Why is there no mention of the Crosby ownership here?** We are also affected by noise in the Boggabri Mine Project. Cottage and building permit come into this zone. Kyalla, also owned by Robert and Pamela Crosby, has a noise agreement about trucks on the haul road signed by the occupiers of the house, but has no noise agreement with Tarrawonga Mine about Mining operations. The noise agreement with the Tarrawonga Mine over road noise consisted of new glazed windows and insulation of the Kyalla house and air conditioning. Since that has been done the house is locked up with air conditioners being used at all times, the trucks are running. The electricity use for Kyalla has doubled and sometimes more; this won't get better: only worse if Tarrawonga Mine noise is going to be ongoing 24/7. This experiment has not worked, glazing windows and locking the house up is not the solution. The children can-not go out to play, the mother can-not listen to what they are up to and get on with her normal life.

From Pamela Crosby: (I have always used my hearing as a large part of my life on the land. I often investigate if horses or cattle are making more noise than normal or different noise. I also can tell a lot what is going on with the property, the tractor is still going, or stopped there is something wrong, go and investigate; the ute is ambling home, put the kettle on; or it is coming in a hurry, something is not right. With the mine noise a constant background all of this hearing sensory is compromised.)

SURFACE WATER

We question the security of dams to contain mine run off in light of recent breaches of dam wall at Tarrawonga on January 31st this year (also happened at Turrawan underground mine) both of which are Whitehaven owned. We heard on the grapevine (gossip) that a spill of dirty water has occurred before at Tarrawonga and now the dam wall has broken, we have photographic evidence, of this most recent one, what are the impacts to downstream? (We have just sourced the CCC Meeting with the documentation of the dirty water spill, which happened Dec 10, 2010. The levels of the spill were in two counts triple what is the 50 mg/L threshold with testing downstream over the threshold and the statement "it is likely that water discharged from site had minimal impact on the TSS levels of surrounding waterways.") Are they not sure! We are within .5 km of the mine and downstream. We have not been informed of these breaches of surface water run off. What are the impacts to grassland? The water is tested at a point just after the mine and is often found to be contaminated but is then tested at the Bollol Creek crossing on the Rangari Road and is found to be clear. The grasslands between the mine and the Rangari Road are filtering all of the sediment out. These grasslands are owned by Robert McGregor and Robert and Pamela Crosby. Are there

acid rock contaminants? Saline water? On page 4-38 of EA monitoring etc.: but what of transparency and honesty on what is happening downstream? Stated in EA on ES1 (best practices of management with relations to neighbours); is this best practice to not let us know what is going on?

AIR QUALITY

Once again the maps show that part Jeralong East owned by RR and PL Crosby and extending into Kyalla owned by RR and PL Crosby will be affected by cumulative impacts of air quality. Figures 4-12 and 4-13. Kyalla house is lived in by a family of 2, soon to be three young children and the vacant land is farmed by Robert, Pamela and Bart Crosby. The cumulative impacts considering the Boggabri Mine Project would be greater. Once again the EA mentions McGregor but not Crosby; Kyalla which is depicted in the same zones on the models. Just sourced the data that in the models Kyalla will run at 29 ug/m² and the cut off is 30 ug/m². This is too close for comfort as far as we are concerned and they are only models, it could be much worse than predicted.

Dust over the mine sight is very noticeable and although we don't have dust monitoring equipment we have eyes and cameras and photos of bad dust at times. The Environmental Assessment says there were only 5 complaints in the period but have the complaints to the EPA been counted? Robert Crosby made 3 logged complaints over a several month period during the months from July thru October. Also have some photos of some horrific looking orange clouds from a blast (this happened more than once). What is the chemical compound in this cloud to look like that and is it hazardous to your health?

With all of this pollution we don't feel it is a healthy place to raise a family any more.

LOCAL VISUAL SETTINGS

It states in the EA that the Tarrawonga Mine is of Low Scenic quality but screened from the closest homesteads. We FARM, that means getting out and working on the place so the low scenic quality of the mine is noticed from more than just the house!

NIGHT LIGHTING

The EA talks about night lighting and what they will do to screen. Plant trees where needed. Trees don't grow overnight and then the working sight is moved on. Sometimes with the weather here the trees will just not grow, what then? Do we just put up with the lights?

ROAD MOVEMENTS

The Boggabri to Manilla Road infrastructure has not been substantially upgraded in the section where we live to take the massive increase in movements since the Tarrawonga and Boggabri Mines have started. According to the Narrabri Shire Council movements have increased from an average of 30 light vehicle and 4 heavy vehicle movements per day in 2002, before the Tarrawonga Project started; to end 2011 when the movements are from 369 to 637 per day, depending on which part of the Rangari (Manilla) Road movements you read. According to the EA, the employees will increase from 86 current to 120 after the expansion. This will put more pressure on local roads. Combining poor road maintenance and 12 hour shifts and people not used to driving on badly kept dirt

roads makes for a severe situation for locals using the road. The Rangari Road is posted as 80 kms per hour coming from the direction of Boggabri as stated in the Tarrawonga EA; but from the Manilla end it is posted as 100 kms per hour! This is the road that splits our properties so is the main (only) way to get from one property to another. The Rangari Road needs major upgrade (tar) or much better maintenance. The road runs east/west. The sun is in drivers eyes in the morning and in the afternoon when they are either late for work or tired after a 10 to 12 hour shift. It is down right dangerous at times on the Rangari Road near the mines. We need speed cameras in front of every residence close to the mine so it is safe to get in and out of our driveways.

Part of the Tarrawonga proposal is to sell 90,000 tonnes of gravel. Where and when will the gravel trucks be running?

As in every aspect of this EA there is a cumulative problem when you take into account the Tarrawonga and Boggabri Mine Projects in such a small area. We are now facing the prospect of opening of the Maules Creek Coal Project which will impact further on local roads; the heavy machinery is logged to come through this road system also.

HAUL ROAD

A part of our property Kyalla was leased by Whitehaven Mining starting Feb 2005 and ending Feb 2015 for a haul road. When this lease was taken out we were told the Tarrawonga Mine had a life of 10 years. We were told we wouldn't even see the mine, it was behind a hill. The haul road was to take coal trucks for the 10 years then close. Now it is a major artery for all local traffic; both Tarrawonga Mine and Boggabri Coal Mine employees, service vehicles, fuel etc travel this haul route. Now the Maules Creek Coal Project will probably use this as a major route for services etc.: Aston Mining and Whitehaven Mining have just merged. Because it is a private road some of these travellers treat this as their private racetrack. Recently: January Friday 13, 2012, a trailer on a coal truck turned over due to excessive speed? And the police were not informed. Before the extensions of the Tarrawonga Coal Project and the Boggabri Coal Project are granted a renegotiation of this haul road should have to take place. We will be closing this haul road in Feb 2015 unless there is a major renegotiation; buy out of our properties.

RE-ALIGNMENT OF GOONBRI CREEK

We have just been through a flood in this valley. Water flowed down the Rangari (Manilla to Boggabri Road) at some places higher than 40 cms. Anecdotally speaking we note on this flat country if you change any -thing ie dump a 1 metre high by 2 metre long pile of soil; water can and usually does; then go in places, it doesn't normally go. The re-alignment of Goonbri Creek: that carries a lot of water in floods will be sure to run water not seen before. There will be impacts, crops flooded, houses or sheds impacted on; who knows where it will go!

According to this EA, all of our properties will be affected in some way by noise or dust, increased traffic on our local roads, lights at night and visually poor landscape.

The EPA people promised to come out to investigate, but to our knowledge have not come. So one just gives up. The mines are treating the locals just as the first settlers did to the then locals 200 years ago. We feel demoralized and wondering where or who to turn to. The mines give money to governments and the local towns for projects in the

area to get the majority of the population on side. When we who are affected by the mines complain, there is no sympathy or concern for the conditions we now have to live with.

We are now stuck in a valley with 2 coal mines on our doorstep and within 10 kms of the Maules Creek Coal Project; in the other direction within 10 kms is the Vickery Coal Project and the Vickery South Coal Project. We also have an Orica explosives depot within 400 metres of the Kyalla boundary, they have been in the news a lot lately for leaks and spills etc at their Newcastle plant. Reading the Whitehaven ASX lists Merton coal reserves as 111.7 Mt. Merton is a property Whitehaven drilled on within 1 km of our back boundary. Whitehaven ASX also lists the property Tarrawonga as having coal deposits, we are the direct neighbours to the property Tarrawonga. We are affectively surrounded by Coal Mines. We did not purchase this property surrounded by coal mines, they came fifteen years later. We do not think it is healthy to live here any more. People who work in the mines wear protective equipment and choose to work there. We did not choose to live near a mine.

We request as a part of the conditions of the expansion of the Tarrawonga Coal Project that you require a buy out of our properties from the Tarrawonga Coal Project supported by the Boggabri Coal Project. When a mine moves into an area no one else wants to purchase a property in the area. No one in their right mind would want to live out their daily lives near a mine. Now, the only buyer in the market is the mine. The social impacts to this valley through mining have been huge. Please take time to make decisions that affect our daily lives.

Yours faithfully,

Robert & Pamela Crosby

Robert R. Crosby
Pamela L Crosby

Truck Roll over Jan. 13th 2012. (Friday)



Blast Cloud taken from "Northam" house.

