



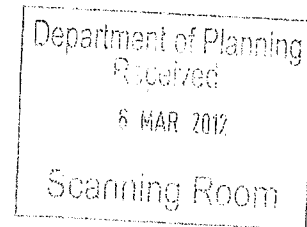
PCU031371

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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 property:

"Jeralong East" which comprises Lot 165 and Lot 196 Deposited Plan 754926.

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 50% of BJ Crosby's property (part Jeralong East) is 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? I have asked this question of Danny Young, the Group Environmental Manager and his response was we weren't aware this property was not separate from RR and PL Crosby and to put it in writing. But the information is clearly stated in the introduction section of their DA(Fig 1-2a and Fig1-2b which is less than 20 pages into the start of the proposal!) We are also affected by noise in the Boggabri Mine Project.

Kyalla, owned by Robert and Pamela Crosby, where my family and I reside, has a noise agreement about trucks on the haul road 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. My children cannot go out to play, my wife cannot listen to what they are up to and get on with her normal life and the power bills are through the roof. Why should I have to lose money from their mistakes?

SURFACE WATER

We question the security of dams to contain mine run off in light of recent breaches of dam wall at Tarrawonga (also happened at Turrawan underground mine) both of which are Whitehaven owned. We were informed by others that a spill of dirty water has occurred before at Tarrawonga and now the dam wall has broken, we have photographic evidence (Picture Dam 1 and Dam 2), of this most recent one, what are the impacts to downstream? As it washed over our land increasing the effects of the local flood resulting in the loss of our boundary fence and deposit of soil onto farming land, what is in this soil? (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? 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 ESI (best practices of management with relations to neighbours): is this best practice?

AIR QUALITY

Once again the maps show that part Jerralong East, extending into Kyalla owned by RR and PL Crosby will be affected by cumulative impacts of air quality. Figures 4-12 and 4-13. A family of 2, soon to be three young children, lives in Kyalla house and Robert, Pamela and Bart Crosby farm the vacant land. 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. It also states there would be no blasting in adverse conditions but they have shown they are just words and don't actually practice this as shown the video provided "Tarrawonga Blast Dust" taken by me during high winds. 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! You can see the mines dumps from all entrances into the town of Boggabri! This clearly overrides all the "artists renderings" of how the mine will look in the coming years.

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? I have complained numerous times about the lights being pointed directly at my residence and having to close the curtains in my 4 year old daughter and 2 year old sons bedroom so they can go to sleep. Surely that would be considered "Light Pollution" especially considering the distance between our house and the dumps. If we wanted to live in town we would have done so.

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 637 per day. According to the EA, the employees will increase from 86 current to 120 after the expansion. Minutes from the last CCC meeting state that there are already 112 permanent workers and 18 full time contractors. In addition to this there has been nearly 3000 sign-ins from other contractors in a 2-month period. This will put even more pressure on local roads. Combining poor road maintenance (picture Rangari Rd 1) 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 driver's 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 cubic metres of gravel per annum. Where and when will the gravel trucks be running and is the number of movements to haul this gravel included into the traffic count? I have asked if the traffic count included the gravel trucks and the response was yes it does. but I have done some calculations of

my own based on a truck hauling 24 cubic metres at a time and working Monday to Saturday all year and that already adds up to 25 movements per day just in gravel trucks so I can't see with all the other workers and contractors that their contribution to the traffic on the Rangari road can be so low.

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.

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 anything i.e. 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! The recent floods have already shown the affect the mine is having on surface water flows with paddocks that have never had water go over them before being flooded and roads that usually fair well in these local flood events being totally destroyed.

According to the original EA the mine or haul roads where not to change the natural flow of water. Well I have photos of the water flowing down the eastern side of the haul rd (picture Haul rd 1, 2) and forcing more water than natural towards the south and onto the Rangari rd which then further down forces water to go in places it has never gone before. This water used to just run through the fence and take its natural course in a totally different way than it goes now. Also I have a video (Goonbri Rd video) of the Goonbri rd well under water before the two creeks "Goonbri" and "Bollol" had started to feed into the waterway system. This shows how much water is running directly from Tarrawonga mine site.

There is a meeting set out for Thursday 23rd February between Whitehaven mining officials and concerned and affected private land holders regarding the changes in surface water flows since the mine has started. There will be an independent hydrologist employed by Whitehaven attending this meeting also to conduct a survey and try to explain why the water flows have changed. I would like to reserve the right to "Update" this submission with information coming from this meeting.

COAL HAULING

I also have concerns with the trucking practices of coal being hauled to the Gunnedah washing and loading facility. There have been numerous incidences of windscreens being smashed by coal falling off trucks. Every time it has been a struggle to get them to replace windscreens when the law states that you are responsible for anything that falls off your vehicle. There has also been some serious truck roll overs that happened on public roads that were not even reported to the police! (picture Roll over 1, 2, 3). Picture "Roll over 3" shows the Rangari rd totally blocked in both directions and still no police or council, for traffic control, were called. Speed was identified as the cause in at least

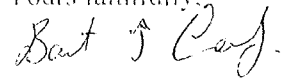
one of these incidences. It has been a struggle to get them to just obey the "road rules" since they started and still are not complying with road laws.

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, and no way out because no one in their right mind would purchase a property so close to a mine. I know we didn't, they moved in on us.

We are now stuck in a valley with 2 coal mines on our doorstep and within 10 kms of the Maules Creek Coal Project which is supposed to be one of the largest in the Southern hemisphere when it gets going; in the other direction within 10 kms is the Vickery Coal Project and the Vickery South Coal Project. We also have an Orica explosives dump 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. We are effectively surrounded by Coal Mines. We did not purchase this property surrounded by coal mines. We do not think it is healthy to live here any longer.

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,



Bart & Melissa Crosby

