

Planning and Infrastructure

Moolarben Coal Mine – Stage 2 Project

Project Application No. 08 0135

Don and Ann Coventry

‘Deep Springs’

1020 Ridge Road

Cooks Gap 2850

NSW

21 February 2012

Dear Minister for Planning,

We wish to make a submission on the above preferred project 08 0135.

We strongly oppose this application by Moolarben Coal and list our reasons below.

It took us two years to find our property – had our solicitors do searches – at that time Ulan Coal Mine was the only one in the area. We also checked with Council and spoke to local residents about growth for the area – and at no time was there ever mentioned the possibility of any more mines in the vicinity. We brought our property ‘Deep Springs’ as our new four bedroom home on twenty five arable acres, for a change of lifestyle - and where we wanted to end our days together. Ulan Mine never affected us.

For the past several years, we have had a dramatic change with the presence of Moolarben Mine, with their noise and dust – stripping and raping our local area. We have(had) a lovely view and now Moolarben wish to take (and have started) this with the progression of their mine which will only get worse with the proposal for stage 2 before you – the Government. This proposal is going to completely destroy our way of life and the natural beauty of our view.

After numerous complaints about noise, we had some representatives from Moolarben Coal Mine come to our property. They told us we have to sell to them. They also told us that we were being too emotional when we said we loved our block. We could not afford to re-buy what we already have with the minimal amount they offered! Moolarben have made our beautiful property worthless with their noise day and night 24/7, black dust that covers everything and loss of beauty. Who would want to live in our once special part of the Mudgee region?

People who say that the mines’ are good for growth etc but they are not affected by them as we, and others who have to live near them, are.

Points of fact:-

- **Doctor appointments** in Mudgee now take 3-4 weeks to get as you can’t be seen before then.
- **Road deterioration** - due to increased traffic to the 3 expanding mines

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- **Traffic noise** all hours – day and night. We moved to a rural area which is now like living near the M4 Motorway again.
- **Increased time to travel to work** – because of increased traffic on the road to Mudgee and waiting for a break to enter on to the road
- **Increased dust levels** – there is a constant haze overlooking Moolarben valley and a black dust in the house and sheds
- **Increased noise levels** – due to mine activity is causing lack of sleep and disturbing our peace
- **Changing outlook** – from rural and native vegetation to an open cut mine
- **The Drip recreation area** – now belongs to Moolarben Coal Mine
- **Health issues** – caused from stress from mining related issues
- **Rent** in Mudgee and Gulgong - **prices** have gone through the roof due to shortage of properties
- **Property** in Mudgee and surrounding areas – **prices** have skyrocketed out of our means.

We are regular, hard working people in our fifties – not young and just starting out. Moolarben want us gone. With the money they have offered we would be unable to replace what we already have – we would be going backwards! We have 25 good usable acres of land with a beautiful, large four bedroom home that we love. Moolarben Coal don't care that a one bedroom/ one bathroom bush block is all we could afford so long as we sell to them and they have their open cut stage 2 mine. So now we have to worry about our health, physical and mental, from their mine noise, lack of sleep, traffic noise and the dust.

When we first heard about the stage 2 proposal - from a neighbour - I called a Moolarben representative and asked for a hard copy. We both work during the day and do not have the time or availability during their office hours to be sitting at Council to read the three large volumes of the report. We don't have a computer either to read the disc – a friend has typed this letter for us. We left several messages on his phone, leaving our contact details to call back and nothing have we received or heard. They left a newsletter in our letterbox last Friday, after we had already picked up our mail and discovered on Sunday, which is four pages, when the hard copy is **3 BIG BOOKS!** This is the information about their proposal that we get. There is no information about our property or the devastating impact that stage 2 will have on us and those who live in the area. Their newsletter treats us like mushrooms!

In finishing, we wish to strongly oppose the granting of the Moolarben Coal Mine – Stage 2 Project. It will have a major effect on us and our way of life.

Yours sincerely

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