18 November 2013

Carolyn Pascoe "Cranbrook" MS3 DUBBO NSW 2830

Director General Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Dear Sir or Madam

DUBBO ZIRCONIA PROJECT – SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

I submit the separately attached submission in response to the EIS documentation contained on the Department's website for the above project.

The following information will provide some background to the issues I have raised in my submission. I live in one of the three homes on the grazing property "Cranbrook", which has been owned by the Pascoe family for four generations and over 100 years. "Cranbrook" is located on the western side of the Obley Road, 17.7 kms south of the Newell Highway/Obley Road intersection. The property lies to the northwest of the proposal site and is within a 5 kilometre radius of the proposed product processing plant and waste treatment facilities.

In addition, our family has been involved with the Toongi Hall and Tennis courts since their inception in the 1920's. The Toongi Recreation Reserve encompasses a large cleared area, shady trees, the Hall, Tennis Courts, toilet block and shed, and is located on the western bank of the Wambangalang Creek. The family's involvement has included providing timber sawn on "Cranbrook" for the construction of the Hall, and on-going labour for maintenance and various projects. Three generations of the family have also been members of the Trust which manages the Hall and Reserve.

The Toongi Hall and Reserve are the heart of a strong community which also includes the Emmagool Rural Fire Service and the Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre. The Hall and Reserve play host to a multitude of meetings, weddings, car rallies, parties, overnight campers and caravaners, and reunions every year. It is a peaceful spot with beautiful shady trees. Visitors often remark that it is just a lovely spot.

It is therefore ironic that the Applicant proposes to place a mineral processing plant and waste treatment works within a few hundred metres of this delightful place and the Toongi Village when the footprint is certainly large enough to place this facility away from these long established facilities. The proposal as portrayed in the EIS will result in a significant change to this peaceful and beautiful locality and the loss of this "rural ideal" at Toongi.

Our family has a strong interest in ensuring that the serenity and safety of our community continues for future generations.

Due to the sheer enormity of the EIS documentation, I have only been able to read and analyse a small proportion of the contents. The attached views therefore represent the main issues of concern I have been able to identify during this review.

I acknowledge the wider benefits to the Dubbo, state and national economies if and when this project comes to fruition. These benefits must be carefully balanced with the impacts on the community surrounding the proposal site. The significant impact of a very large number of heavy vehicle movements through Dubbo and along the Obley Road must be satisfactorily addressed.

The issues raised in the attached submission relate not just to how our family may be impacted on the Obley Road and at "Cranbrook", but to the wider Toongi and Dubbo community.

I trust that the issues I have raised will be considered and addressed prior to approval of the project.

Yours faithfully

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Carolyn Pascoe