

Hilary Myers

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes in operating hours for the in-pit operations of the Boral Peppertree mine at South Marulan. We are already impacted by the noise of the quarry at certain times but the proposed changes would see the noisiest activities starting at 4am as opposed to 7am and finishing 10pm as opposed to 7pm. This will make an enormous difference to us as it is otherwise very quiet where we have chosen to live and because it is quiet the noise of the quarry at night is quite noticeable. The crusher for the in-pit operation is significantly noisier than the operations being carried out at night at present.

The quarry received approval to go ahead under the present provisions after community consultation and they have made very limited attempts to involve the community in the decision to change the hours of operation. The quarry sent representatives to our area but only contacted residents if they happened to be home at the time, luckily we were home. When we spoke to the representatives of the quarry the man (I forget his name) spoke to us for quite a while before trying to brush over the actual reason for the visit. He mentioned in passing that they were considering some changes but I had to pursue that with him to find out what they were. I had to question him about every aspect of the changes as he was not forthcoming at all. When he asked us what sounds were loudest he did not identify for us what was making the sound. It was the environmental officer (Sharon Mikan) who was helpful and pointed out to the other guy that the noise we were talking about was the in-pit crusher and that is exactly what they are proposing to use at 4am.

As someone who has invested in the area I am very concerned that these proposed changes will negatively impact on both the value of my property and on the quality of life that my family and I enjoy at present. I do not look forward to woken at 4am to the sound of the quarry every day and if my children are woken frequently this could impact on them in many ways including impeding their progress at school. My husband is a very light sleeper and I know that extending the hours of the in-pit operations will have a negative impact on him.

Very few of the quarries around Marulan are allowed to operate 24hrs a day, Peppertree has been granted this privilege with the provision that it keeps the noisier operations to daylight hours. I do not believe that they should be granted any more leeway in this regard.

The quarry aims to increase production and has said that it will move extra materials by road. This also goes against the original development application where the community was assured that all product would be moved by rail. Boral did not help fund the overpass and highway entry/exit that was built to service the quarry vehicles because they argued that they were only using rail. Now they propose to use the road after others have paid for construction of this infrastructure. The road is already in an appalling state and the extra vehicles that they propose to put on it will only degrade it more rapidly.

I am extremely concerned that our communities are increasingly governed by the big business that run rough-shod over our rights. We didn't choose to live here just to have all of the noise and

disruption that the quarry cause with the increase in its production. They were granted permission to build the quarry under certain conditions and they should have to stick to these conditions.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary Myers.