

MOUNT THORLEY WARKWORTH CONTINUATION PROJECT 2014

This Project should NOT BE ALLOWED TO PROCEED. The following points should be considered as a sample of reasons for rejection.

1. The Project in one form or another has already been denied by both the New South Wales Land and Environment Court and the New South Wales Supreme Court. Following these decisions direct lobbying of the NSW Government by senior Rio Tinto management, specially flown from London, caused the Government to introduce legislation placing the economic significance of a resource above all other considerations, i.e. Environmental , Human. The re-submitting of the Project demonstrates the applicant's contempt for the processes of law and it's ability to sway Government law making in it's favour.
2. The detrimental effects of the Project on local residents are extensive. They include :
Noise at all hours of day and night; Dust; Diesel Fumes; Health Issues ;Light Pollution;
Negative Visual Impact ;
Life Style Degradation; Negative Property Valuation. All these issues were considered in the Court decisions and upheld.
3. Rio Tinto's continuing arrogant attitude and dismissive approach to resident's concerns .
4. Rio Tinto's claims concerning the number of jobs involved in the Project do not stand up to scrutiny and the Company is currently working to reduce its workforce through automation in many areas such as driver-less vehicles.
5. Rio Tinto's Environmental Impact Statement claims a negligible impact on water resources from the Project. This is demonstrably incorrect and amounts to an outright lie. The amount of 313,000 mega litres of rainfall run-off is estimated to be lost due to the Project. The void left by the expanded mine would become a toxic lake.
6. Flora and fauna, already struggling in the area, would be placed under further stress.
7. Important aboriginal heritage sites would be destroyed if the Project proceeds.
8. The claim that "offsets" balance the destruction that would be caused by the Project are not correct and were rejected by the Land and Environment Court.
9. The Land and Environment Court found that the project was not economically viable in 2012, and the value of coal has decreased further since then. The touted economic benefit of the Project to the Australian economy is overstated. Rio Tinto, as a multi national Company is able to reduce it's taxation liabilities and send profits offshore. As mentioned earlier claims about employment opportunities are overstated and cannot be substantiated,