

Submission opposing Mount Thorley Warkworth Continuation Project 2014

My name is Mildy Palmer and I oppose the proposed extension for the following reasons:

-Proposals to mine the area have been denied previously by two courts. Continuing to apply to mine this area is contempt of the court system and an abuse of process. It also shows rampant disregard for Bulga residents and the ecology of the Warkworth Sands Woodland.

-Information in the EIS is incorrect. Rio states 23.8% of privately owned properties in Bulga are unoccupied (37) houses. In fact, it is only 3 houses.

-Residents of Warkworth, Long Point, Gouldsville, Broke, Fordwich and Milbrodale would be subjected to additional dust, noise and blast effects. The damaging effects of particulate matter are well known, and must not be ignored in considering this proposal, please see the below links

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/189051/Health-effects-of-particulate-matter-final-Eng.pdf

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/particulate-matter.aspx>

-Living in this kind of environment is not very appealing therefore the approval of this project should see property values decline.

-A comprehensive social impact management plan is required in the EIS.

-Warkworth Sands Woodland is a unique environment only occurring in this area and no offsets can replace it. The woodlands support a wide range of endangered species of flora and fauna including including squirrel glider (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), speckled warbler (*Pyrrholaemus saggitata*), brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnis* subsp.*victoriae*) and grey-crowned babbler (*Pomatosomus temporalis* subsp.*temporalis*). Only approximately 800 hectares of these woodlands remain, with no conservation reserve. There is no way expanding mining activities would not further threaten the unique ecology of the area. This is against the principle of ESD, in particular the principle of biodiversity and the precautionary principle. All levels of government are supposed to consider the ESD principles in decision-making.

-The proposed offsets are not like for like. And if coal is found in the offset area these areas can be again offset. The offset system is beyond a joke.

-There are significant indigenous heritage sites in the woodlands that should not be disturbed.

-An open cut coal mine would contribute poorly to the amenity of the area, thus poorly affecting residents' wellbeing.

Thank you

Mildy Palmer