

Objection : Mt Thorley Continuation Project

Application no. SSD6465

This is a letter of objection against the above Project.

We, Rex & Heather Davis vehemently object to the Project on the grounds detailed below;

- This so called Continuation Project of this mine and Warkworth mine combined is essentially the same as the previous application DA300-9-2002-I MOD 6 which was successfully rejected by the Land and Environment Court last year. The footprint is the same. Why is this company, Rio Tinto, allowed to flagrantly disregard this decision of the L&E court, and do it with the backing of the Dept. of Planning NSW? Does the NSW Govt. not have to abide by the Courts in NSW?
- The mine does little, if any, rehabilitation on the mined land and the excavation of Saddle Ridge would create a further moonscape from Bulga and the adjoining Highway. The amount of dust emanating from Warkworth Mine is already excessive to the point of contaminating all the water in our tanks, why should we have to buy water because the mine is contaminating it? Shouldn't the mine have to supply clean water for us? There is no way that this Company will be able to control the dust coming from this mine as the exposed area is already massive and will only increase if this Project goes ahead.
- Bulga is a very community minded village and the impact of any extension of Warkworth mine would see our village being broken up and villagers leaving for greener cleaner pastures, but this would only be possible if they can sell their properties for what it is worth. This village was established almost 200 years ago but will be destroyed by this project.
- Scare tactics are being used by Rio Tinto on the residents of Bulga, we are not opposed to mining but we are opposed to the open cut method wiping out previous agricultural land, if they want the coal let them go underground and we would all be better off, not just the mine.
- This mine cannot control the noise coming from the mine now. We have to take time to ring the Mine complaints line on numerous occasions each week, usually late at night, we hate to think how much louder the noise would be if the mine was 2 to 3kms closer to us, how would we be able to sleep at night, sleep deprivation would see us having to visit the Doctors for sleeping tablets or even anti-depressants. Is that scenario approved by your Government, driving us to the brink of insanity should not be acceptable.
- Our land values have dropped markedly since this mine has been trying to come closer to Bulga, we can't even get a real estate agent to come and give us a selling value of our 25acre property as they know they won't be able to sell it because buyers don't want to live in a dusty noisy environment.

We therefore urge the NSW Dept. of Planning to reject this application and any further application to mine the land in question and abide by the Land and Environment decision of last year.

Yours sincerely

Rex and Heather Davis (residents of Bulga for 20 years)

