

## Mount Thorley Continuation Project

I wish to object to the proposal. The reasons for my objection follow:

1. This proposal masquerades as a new proposal. This is arrant nonsense - the same total area is planned to be mined as was presented in the previously disallowed application. In this case it is split into 2 parts.
2. This application is resubmitted despite the previous one being disallowed by both the Land and Environment Court and the NSW Supreme Court of Appeal. The court's decision was made after a forensic analysis of the application. This is contempt of court.
3. This application should not even be considered until there is a full examination of the cosy relationship between senior officers at the Department of Planning and Environment and mining companies. It is impossible to prepare documents of the magnitude of the application in the time it was done. It would only be possible with prior assistance from the bureaucracy. The Department of Planning should be renamed the Department of Approvals.
4. Flawed statistics abound: residential data and proportion of workers living Singleton and elsewhere.
5. Rio Tinto say that they are not responsible for issues associated with lifestyle choices. We had our property valued in 2010 and again just recently. The second valuation showed a drop of 18.2%. I suspect our property is unsaleable. We made a decision to renovate our house based on a RioTinto initiated clause in the 2002 Extension that Saddle Ridge would not be mined so as to protect the village of Bulga. This clause was conveniently ignored by Rio and later set aside by Minister Hazzard. And the advertise "Trust Us". This mob is entirely without ethics.
6. This company cannot manage their impacts now, evidenced by their failure to stay within the approval limits. If they move closer to the village, their impacts relating to noise and dust will get worse.
7. No mention is made of the community consultation conducted by EMM in the application. Why not? One can only speculate but the cynic in me says that what EMM found was not in favour of the development.
8. The EIS says that there will be no measurable impact on water. Nonsens! Final voids are an obscenity with their saline water and disruption to aquifers, creeks and rivers. With the void having a volume similar to that of Sydney Harbour there has to be an impact.
9. This company does not consult - they tell you what they plan to do! Consultation is a two way process.
10. Mining applications must not be considered in isolation. Cumulative impacts must be considered and until this is done this application must be disallowed.
11. There are no safe levels of PM2.5 particulate. WHO and NSW Health guidelines are regularly exceeded. Diesel and dust and pollution from power stations are all contributors.
12. This application, like its predecessor makes a mockery of the like for like requirement for offsets. It is not about the size of the offsets. Warkworth Sands Woodland, once mined cannot be recreated. To suggest otherwise indicates that you are dreaming.

13. Economics is a most imprecise science(sic). The only change that has happened since the refusal of the last application is that the price of coal has dropped. The proposal was not able to be justified economically then, now it is less so. With so much of mining profits being repatriated overseas, 82%, and as mining companies walk through the taxation system, Australians are not getting the amount of value from the resources that the country owns.
14. The villagers of Bulga have no trust in Government - Minister Hartcher's introduction of the new mining SEPP shows the contempt that the state government has for people. They have no faith that the regulators will enforce the noise and dust limits currently in place. My experience with Rio is they will only make changes to their operations when you make a noise or dust complaint. They have sophisticated monitoring equipment but are reactive to complaint not proactive to remain within their consent conditions. If their operations impact now at 7km away from the mine, what will it be like when they move much closer
15. Village life is wonderful - you wouldn't know until you have tried it. I live here because it is so good, a very rich and varied lifestyle. Bureaucrats sitting in their city offices have no idea what they will destroy if they approve this application. Bulga must not go the way of Warkworth, Ravensworth and Camberwell villages.

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