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Department of Planning
Received
6 JAN 2020
Scanning Room

[REDACTED]
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Woodlands Station

WENTWORTH NSW 2648

Director

Resource Assessments, Planning and Assessment, Department of Planning Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Re: Snapper Mineral Sands Mine – Modification 7

Application No: MP06_0168-Mod-7

Please delete our personal information before publication.

Dear Director

Please find enclosed submission and a declaration of reportable political donations made in the previous two years.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29-12-2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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29.12.19

Submission

Snapper Mineral Sands Mine – Modification 7

Application NO: MP06_0168-Mod-7

Snapper Mine Northern Extension Modification

Introduction

We object to the proposed Snapper Mine Northern Extension Modification application. Our objection is based on a number of grounds which do and will continue to impact us, our family and the long term operation of our grazing business.

Noise

Noise from the mine is a problem at Manilla Station residence. The noise intensity varies depending on a number of factors including weather conditions and where the machinery is in relation to the surface of the land; on the surface louder down in the pit not so loud. At times the beeping and clunking of machinery can be heard at night, inside the house with the television on. The mine operates 24hrs per day seven days per week.

The mine path planned in the modification will put Manilla Station homestead more in line with the prevailing winds which will carry the noise and the machinery, at least initially, will be on the surface.

Tronox, very generously, has offered to consider structural modifications (double glazed windows and insulation blanket under the roofing iron) to the house in an attempt to reduce noise at the Manilla Station residence. Quotations are being sought currently but it is difficult to engage builders in our remote area. At this stage there is no commitment from Tronox to carry out those measures.

Air Quality

Dust from Snapper mine causes issues at Manilla Station. Snapper Mine generates dust which impacts our pasture/vegetation and Manilla Station homestead. Due to the current severe drought conditions there is a considerable amount of dust generated by even slight winds. The mining operations exacerbate the issue.

Once again, the planned mine path of the modification puts Manilla Station residence more in line with the prevailing winds. This will continue even after the drought breaks.

Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation is our main concern. At best we will be left with land which will make maintaining stock proof boundary fencing an ongoing problem; difficult and dangerous terrain to traverse on a motor bike or in a vehicle and land likely to erode in heavy rain events. At worst our land won't be suitable for grazing sheep. If the Modification goes ahead our land will never be the same again. This is unacceptable to us.

Conclusion

The Modification Application and associated process has caused us considerable stress, work and angst at a time when we are battling one of the most severe droughts in history. The Modification, if it goes ahead, will cause considerable disruption and inconvenience to our grazing operation and management.

Our family has operated a grazing enterprise in the area for seven generations and should be able to continue to do so without having to deal with problems caused by a mining operation which is of no benefit to us.

Whilst our preferred option is for the Modification not to proceed, we are fully aware of and appreciate the employment provided in the area. However, we don't believe this should occur at the expense of our family or our business.