

Dr Mehreen Faruqi
Greens Member of the NSW Legislative Council



Mr Matthew Riley
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

23/4/2014

Dear Mr Riley

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Part 3A Modification 4 – Invincible Mine Extension (07_0127 MOD 4) and Part 3A Modification 2 – Cullen Valley Mine Extension (DA 200-5-2003 MOD 2).

These modifications would allow the Invincible Mine to operate until 2020, and extend the open cut mining area by 88 hectares and highwall mining area by 86 hectares amongst other modifications. The modification to the Cullen Valley Mine would allow an extra 62 hectares for open cut mining and 79 hectares for highwall mining.

Given the significant impact the proposal would have on the environment, especially the unique stone pagoda formations found in the Ben Bullen State Forest, I wish to strongly object to the proposal for the following reasons:

Environmental Impact

The proposal, which will significantly expand the area to be mined, and will destroy areas of unique biodiversity and environmental significance. The area includes Grassy Box Woodlands which are a nationally significant endangered ecological community, along with other threatened flora such as the Clandulla Geebung Shrub and the Capertee Stringybark tree.

The Ben Bullen State Forest is also home to the unique geological formations known as Stone Pagodas, which are believed to have been formed hundreds of millions of years ago. These pagodas are significant not only in NSW, but internationally. The proposal fails to provide the 300 metres minimum buffer recommended by the Planning Assessment Commission between the pagoda rock formations and the open-cut area.

Health Impact

The proposal is less than two kilometres from the town of Cullen Bullen and coal dust from this project could lead to increased health impacts on the community from respiratory and cardiovascular disease. Noise, truck movements and blasting will also adversely impact on residents. However, there is no proposal to cover coal trucks which places residents at unacceptable additional risk.

p (02) 9230 2625 f (02) 9230 3032 e mehreen.faruqi@parliament.nsw.gov.au

w mehreenfaruqi.org.au t @mehreenfaruqi f mehreenfaruqi

Mehreen Faruqi MLC, Parliament House, Macquarie St, Sydney, NSW 2000



Area of High Conservation Value

The Office of Environment and Heritage has identified the whole of Ben Bullen State Forest as being of high conservation value for future reservation. The presence of internationally significant pagoda formations in the Gardens of Stone as well as the unique flora and fauna found in the area make it an ideal candidate to be further protected, such as through the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

The Gardens of Stone need to be protected for nature conservation and ecologically responsible recreation or tourism purposes. Extending mining operations will have an irreversible impact on this spectacular high conservation area.

In conclusion, I oppose the proposed modifications to the existing development approvals for the Invincible and Cullen Valley Mines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Dr Mehreen Faruqi MLC
Greens NSW Environment Spokesperson