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Department of Planning & Infrastructure
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**Modifications to the Warkworth Mine Development Consent Application Number
DA 300-9-2002-i MOD 6**

Rio Tinto states that it must get approval to mine into Saddleback Ridge to “preserve the viability of the Warkworth Mine and maintain current employment as close as possible to current levels”. Rio Tinto omits to state that it signed a Deed of Agreement in 2003 promising that it would never open cut mine Saddleback Ridge and that it would apply to Singleton Council to have the Saddleback Ridge and the balance of the NDA1 that was to protect Bulga, rezoned as a permanent conservation area. Rio Tinto is breaking its promise with both of these important undertakings and thus cannot be trusted to honour any of the promises it is making with this amendment application.

In 2013 the NSW Land & Environment Court rejected the mining of Saddleback Ridge as part of the previous application. This new application to mine into Saddleback Ridge must be refused. This ridge is an important barrier between the noise and dust of the Warkworth mine and the village of Bulga. The mine said they would not mine Saddleback Ridge and signed a Deed of Agreement with the Government in 2003 agreeing that they would preserve the ridge as a Non Disturbance Area.

Rio Tinto is making this DA application without any prior consultation with the people of Bulga. Rio Tinto has been deceitful when, having met with the community representatives only three weeks before at the Community Consultative Committee; no advice was given on this proposed application even though clearly it was fully documented and ready to submit. The residents of Bulga Village are the most impacted by any expansion of this mine and yet they are told about this the day before the application is made. This demonstrates the arrogance of this company and the Bulga residents are extremely disappointing considering the impact this mine has on them.

The increase in the noise levels already adds to the excessive noise being received by residents surrounding this mine. Rio Tinto has been fined for exceeding noise limits. Last year the mine received 800 noise complaints. No increase in noise levels is acceptable and more stringent actions must be taken to reduce existing noise levels from the Warkworth Mine.

Rio Tinto is not applying the requirement of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy with regards to Low Frequency Noise. This is a serious breach of the current approvals and will continue with the new expansion if granted. This continuing breach is being ignored by the Government and is unacceptable.

The Aboriginal Cultural heritage in the expansion area must not be destroyed. Four out of seven artefacts remain from those identified in the earlier EA. With this expansion the remaining four will be destroyed. These artefacts were intended for preservation under the Deed of Agreement of 2003. This will not be honoured under this expansion.

No further application should be made on land that was the subject of the previous 2010 application (NDA1) and which was rejected by the Land and Environment Court and which is now in the Supreme Court. This application shows blatant disregard and disrespect for the Court process and I strongly object to this application.

Ron Corino