

Objection : Rio Tinto Warkworth Modification Application

Application no. DA 300-9-2002-I MOD 6

This is a letter of objection against the above modification to Warkworth extension.

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

- Rio Tinto made no attempt to consult the local Bulga community on the proposed modification until after it had submitted its application.
- Saddle Ridge is a barrier between Warkworth Mine and Bulga which the Mine said they would not mine and signed a Deed of agreement with the government in 2003 agreeing to preserve the ridge as a non disturbance area to protect the Bulga residents from dust and noise.
- The increase in noise and dust will be unbearable for me and my husband, and for all Bulga residents, even though we are 6 km from the mine, we currently regularly ring the mine complaining about the unacceptable level of noise and dust we live with every day. We rely on our tank water for everything on our property but the huge amount of dust that is currently settling on our property is contaminating our water& our olive grove. If the mine moves closer to Bulga and removes Saddle Ridge we will not be able to use our tank water for household use and would have to buy water on a regular basis. This is unacceptable! Will the mine compensate us for this additional cost?
- Offsetting to allow for the destruction of an Environmentally Endangered Community is unacceptable as the offset would not alleviate the noise and dust we would experience.
- 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.
- 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 pastures.
- 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.
- The land in question was part of the 2010 application (NDA1) which was rejected by the Land & Environment Court for perfectly valid reasons. The reasons haven't changed. This application shows disrespect for the Court system and for democracy. Collusion is suggested between Rio Tinto and the Government considering the SEPP amendment which was recently made law, maybe the planning department should be the subject of an ICAC enquiry.

We therefore urge the Planning assessment commission to reject this application and any further application to mine the land in question.

Yours sincerely

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

