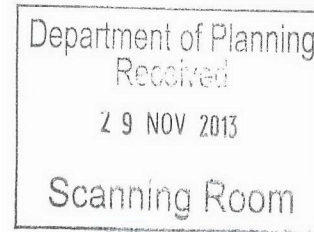




27 November, 2013

The Director, Project Assessments  
Dept of Planning & Infrastructure  
23-33 Bridge Street  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir,

**SUBMISSION**

**Re: RIO TINTO WARKWORTH MINE MODIFICATION APPLICATION –  
DA 300-9-2002-i MOD 6**

I grew up in Bulga and now live in Singleton. I have watched Bulga change from a rural Community with picturesque views of farmland and vineyards to a village affected by dust, noise and blasting with views of huge open cut mines with grey mountains of overburden.

My parents still live in Bulga and I am concerned for their health because of the air they are breathing and the stress Rio Tinto Warkworth Mine is causing them.

I am also concerned that their property, which my brother and I will one day inherit, is being devalued.

The arrogance of this company is obvious in the fact that the 2012 extension was rejected in the Land and Environment Court, they appealed the decision and now have not waited for the Courts decision on the appeal to submit an amendment application to mine the Non-disturbance Area 1 which Judge Preston said should never be mined because:

- a) The 2003 Deed of Agreement was not honoured
- b) It would destroy a very rare Endangered Ecological Community
- c) It is a buffer zone for dust and noise for the village of Bulga

The fact that there was a Community Consultative Committee meeting two weeks before the announcement of the application where nothing was mentioned and then the CCC members and residents were informed the night before the Development Application was made. Rio Tinto have proved to be deceitful in this lack of communication with the residents of Bulga who are most affected by the modification.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage has been completely disregarded by Rio Tinto as only four of the artefacts in the expansion area still remain. These were to be preserved under the 2003 Deed of Agreement and if expansion of this mine goes ahead they will be lost.

Rio Tinto's 2003 approval allows mining for another eight years until 2021 so their reasoning to protect jobs is arguable. The price of coal and the greed of the mining companies is the reason for any loss of jobs.

The new SEPP introduced by the government is clearly in response to the Land and Environment Court decision to reject the mine. The state government seems to be placing the interests of foreign owned mining companies above the health and well being of the residents of Bulga.

I strongly object to this development application as it goes against all principles of fairness. Economics should not be given priority over the lives of human beings and the survival of rural villages. Too many villages have already disappeared.

Bulga was settled in 1820 when my ancestors rode over the mountains to explore a route to the Hunter Valley and my family have lived in the village ever since.

I do not think a large multi-national mining company such as Rio Tinto should be allowed to destroy this village.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Naomi Cupitt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Naomi Cupitt  
3 Dalmeny Close,  
Hunternview,  
Singleton, NSW, 2330