



27 November, 2013

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

Dear Sir

**Re: Warkworth Mining Modification No. DA-300-9-2002-I Mod 6**

Please accept this letter as a holding submission regarding the above application as time constraints prevent completion by 29 November, 2013.

Firstly I am concerned that the Department of Planning & Infrastructure is giving consideration to a mining extension within a parcel of land that is portion of an earlier application currently under review within the Courts and which the Department had previously approved.

The parcel of land falls within a non-disturbance area which was required to be permanently protected by a signed Ministerial Deed of Agreement approximately ten years ago.

I am also concerned about ongoing detrimental impacts in the village of Bulga including physical and mental health issues, excessive noise and dust and the non-compliance of conditions of consent by the mining company.

I understand that the complete submission is required by 9 December, 2013.

Yours faithfully

Stewart Mitchell  
"Green Flat"  
29 The Inlet Road  
Bulga NSW 2330



27 November, 2013

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

### **SUBMISSION**

#### **Re: Rio Tinto Warkworth Mine Modification Application - DA 300-9-2002-1 MOD 6**

I strongly object to the Rio Tinto Warkworth Mine Modification Application for the following reasons:

The lack of consultation with the Community and the deceitfulness of the company means they cannot be trusted to adhere to conditions placed upon the mine.

Last year the mine received 800 noise complaints and this year they were fined for exceeding noise limits. If this modification is approved it will not be possible for them to meet noise conditions as they cannot meet them now.

Rio Tinto signed a Deed of Agreement in 2003 stating it would never open cut mine Saddle Ridge. This company did not honour the promise stated in the Deed to apply to Singleton Council to have Saddle Ridge and the balance of the Non-disturbance Area 1 rezoned as a permanent conservation area. This action alone proves Rio Tinto is not a trustworthy company. Saddle Ridge is extremely important to the village of Bulga as a buffer zone for noise and dust and unless it is preserved living in Bulga is going to become unbearable.

Permitting this modification is detrimental to a very rare Endangered Ecological Community. It is also detrimental to our Aboriginal Heritage as Rio Tinto has already destroyed three very important Aboriginal artefacts and the granting of this extension will allow the remaining artefacts to be destroyed. This is sacrilege!!!!!!

Every day we endure the dust in our homes. Breathing these dust particles every day has been proven to have a major impact on our health. This company is ignoring health warnings by not measuring PM2.5 dust particles which are the most detrimental to our health and are produced by diesel fumes from the huge machinery used in mining.

Residents suffer from sleep deprivation from low frequency noise which is ever present, along with the rattling of the dragline chains and the "beeping" of reversing warnings on huge dump trucks.

We also have the lighting up of the sky at night time as though we were living in the city and there is always that one which shines straight in the bedroom window. We live in the country, we do not need to draw blinds as we don't have close neighbours. Why should we have to draw blinds because of a mine??????

The visual impact of the overburden "mountains" has changed dramatically from the lovely green hills to which we were once accustomed.

Rio Tinto's endeavours to expand Warkwoth mine have caused divisions in the Community between the non-miner residents and some of those employed in the mining industry.

Rio Tinto uses scare tactics on their employees so that they have ill feelings towards objectors fearing they will lose their jobs. The company has failed to inform their employees of the Deed of Agreement of 2003 and of their failure to honour it. They have also failed to tell their employees the true reason for losing jobs which is the greed of these large foreign owned mining companies

The statements that Rio Tinto needs this expansion to "maintain the viability of the operation" and "maintain employment as close as possible to current levels" are not justified. The mine is currently working under its 2003 approval which allows mining for another 8 years.

The methodology for economic justification of the extension was disproven in the Land and Environment Court. One person in one job for one year is not a valid way of calculating employment statistics.

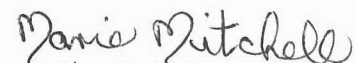
The Chief Justice of the Land and Environment Court found the previous application flawed in all areas so it is difficult to comprehend why another application would be considered.

Clearly the new SEPP amendment was introduced as a result of the Land and Environment Court decision in April this year. The timing of this application a few days after the SEPP was introduced suggest collusion between the NSW Government and Rio Tinto with no consideration at all given to the residents of the historical village of Bulga. This is a sad situation when a foreign owned company is given preference over Australian citizens.

My parents and my two brothers are buried in our cemetery alongside the historic St Mark's Church where my parents, myself and my brothers were baptized. What is going to happen to this Church and cemetery when all the original inhabitants are driven out of the village and the mine-owned houses are rented out to miners who are only here to earn the big dollars and leave when they have had enough?

My family has lived in Bulga since 1905 and my husbands since 1825.

This Rio Tinto Warkworth Mine modification application must not be approved for the sake of a foreign owned company earning big money and the government receiving huge royalties. It will mean the demise of an historic village inhabited by some very worthy residents.



Marie Mitchell

"Green Flat"

29 The Inlet Road

Bulga NSW 2330