

I am hereby lodging my opposition to the Dartbrook Modification No 7 on the following points.

Economics:

- The Proponents Economic analysis of the project is based on cost assumptions, which underpin it and bias the results in favour of the Project.
- Project costs are understated and environmental costs (including impacts of significantly higher truck movements, noise, and dust) have been omitted
- There is no socio-economic analysis as required by the Department of Planning.

Air Quality:

- Unacceptable dust and air quality implications of the Project have not been assessed.
- Cumulative air quality impacts have not been assessed.
- Modification starts with exceedances – this is inappropriate.
- NSW Government has a duty of care to the residents of the Upper Hunter. It must hold mines (individually and collectively) responsible for air quality exceedances.
- NSW Government should not approve any additional mines in the Upper Hunter given the admission of mine proponents that there will be exceedances and their lack of accountability to take any responsibility.

Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage

- Neither Aboriginal or Cultural heritage has not been fully or appropriately assessed.
- AQC should have surveyed its entire Mining Boundary Area to provide context for the Aboriginal assessment.

Noise:

- AQC fails to provide appropriate assessments of the noise impact of this Modification.
- The proponents noise impact submission is nothing more than a brief summary with no adequate noise impact analysis and no comparison of the noise limits detailed 20 years ago versus noise levels in today's environment.
- No appropriate detail is provided in AQC's EA to enable a full and transparent interrogation of the Project.
- Noise levels, like air quality, show exceedances of project noise limits.
- This is unacceptable.

Visual Impacts:

- Modification will result in 96 truck cycles (192 one way truck movements) 11 hours per day, 5 days a week.
- Environmental Assessment does not acknowledge or assess the impact of this proposal on 10 - 12 rural residences, located 500m to less than 1km from the project) that will be visibly impacted by this modification.
- There are other residents in elevated parts of Aberdeen that also have visibility of activities associated with the Modification – which have not been assessed.
- Modification does not assess the dust and visual impact of significantly higher truck movements on residents and travellers to the area.
- Modification fails to assess impact on tourism, viticulture and thoroughbred breeding industries.
- Modification fails to assess full visual impacts on the town of Aberdeen, nearby residents, agricultural industries, travellers and tourists to the region.

Water:

- I am very concerned about the impacts of recommencing underground mining on this site and the implications for on our water systems, including our aquifers and Hunter River.

This project should be refused.

Yours sincerely,

Robert McLaughlin

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