

[REDACTED]

To: The Secretary
re new Drayton South Mine Objection
The Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Secretary

We are writing to object to the new mine proposed for Drayton South, or what use to be called Saddlers Creek. We thought after last public meeting and outcome that there was finally a decision that respected the broader community in the Hunter and the issues that have been constantly raised.

My husband has incredible history with this valley [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He has had grave concern the valley's sustainability and witnessed the rapid decimation of the land. It just seems open slather, and that any mine will get the go ahead irrespective of individual or community concern.

As a farming family, [REDACTED] we are concerned about the impacts on the land and environment and our local community. The dust haze sits on the valley, more open cut will exacerbate concerns for health.

Can the mine guarantee no impact on water – the river, the springs, the underground water table and its interconnectivity? Farms are reliant on water, damage (salination of water ways, leaks, change to natural catchments and water courses) should not be tolerated. Mine voids seem to be accepted as the “necessary evil” and remanent of mines. They should not be tolerated. The impacts are forever. we understand there are known breaches of regulations regarding water usage and disposal, and concerns about the lack of this mine environmental assessment credibility – particularly when it comes to cumulative impacts on water.

Mine offsets and ‘rehabilitated’ land – who does that benefit. Only the mine. Not the environment. Yes mine offset good fortune for some famers, but does not necessarily equate to improved environment or expanded environment for endangered specie or better or status quo farm management. Rehab land is yet to be viable agricultural land post mining ceases. Yes there are trials for cattle grazing but are they addressing the impacts on natural land formation, air quality and how that affects our fencing posts ionisation.

This mine will add to the cumulative impacts on our air and water, which equates to impacts on our health and farming community viability.

We object to this mine. I don't like seeing the community division this mine has created, but it's not people like us or the staff at Drayton that has put us in this intimidating position, but the government. We would not remain at a farm if there was a mine 1km from our front gate. We have grave concerns with Bickham which is just over 10km from us, so 1 km is just not acceptable.

Yours faithfully

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