

I have been a resident of the Mandalong valley for 32 years and am fully conversant with the acreage where the future mine workings will be. My husband and I own two properties in the area.

I presently reside about a kilometre away and I do have concerns that my peaceful lifestyle may be severely interrupted by the constant 24/7 noise which is proposed in the construction period, noise from the ventilation shaft and noise and consequences of increased heavy traffic on Mandalong Road. There is very little noise in the valley at the present time and any increase at all will be heard over a wide area, not just in the locality of the mine.

EDO NSW commented that "The EA states that noise mitigation measures suggest it is possible to reduce noise to acceptable levels, however, cumulative noise and mitigation impacts have not been modelled for the construction phase. You may wish to request that this modelling is undertaken, and noise contour maps be provided to the community to support this position. You may also wish to make suggestions in relation to conditions of approval around acceptable noise levels and what action must be taken by the project proponent if the predicted noise levels are exceeded."

In order to give some peace and quiet to the residents, construction of the mine should be restricted to standard working hours, weekdays only. Noise impact should be modelled and independently measured on a regular basis.

The main access road to Mandalong, Mandalong Road is not, in its present state, aligned to heavy traffic, particularly trucks. The same road is frequently used by myself and others for walking and cycling. Many other residents use it for horseriding. The road has crumbling edges and is frequently potholed after heavy rain and is generally not in good condition. The road is cut in two places when flooded and is impassable for residents at the southern end of the valley.

A remedy for this would be building up the road in a number of places, particularly after any occurrence of subsidence.

I note that the proposed access road will be only of gravel. Dust generated by trucks, in particular, will be of nuisance and health problems to the residents, some of whom suffer with asthma. The proposed location for the access road is an area that I have seen severely affected by water in flood time. There is also the possibility of unauthorised access to this road, possibly causing problems and further noise for the residents.

Special attention should be paid to the construction of the access road. Access to the road should be restricted at all times to authorised vehicles.

Since mining commenced in the valley, the social impact on the residents has taken its toll. During the Northern phase the mining company purchased some 40 properties on the valley floor, severely impacting the social fabric of the valley. Renters of mine properties take no part in the activities of the residents and it is my understanding that this is encouraged by mine management. The land management plan for the mine properties appears to be non-existent as evidenced by the total lack of control of fireweed which is endemic on the mine properties.

I have serious concerns about the environmental protection that will be afforded to the mining area, particularly saline water which will no doubt have to be pumped from the mine. In the past this destroyed acres of ground in the Cooranbong area when the water was pumped directly out of the mine in the guise of bores which were registered with Council. I include with this submission comments on water quality made by Dr Ian A. Wright. Freshwater Scientist.

Regular tests on water quality must be made to ensure compliance with EPL requirements.

I can see no benefits to the Mandalong residents from the proposed mine extension, however, in the past, development of a new fire station was considered, but never acted upon.

If the mine company were to undertake the building of a new fire station, it would be of great benefit to the residents of this heavily timbered valley.