

Mandalong Mine Southern Extension Project SSD5144

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### *Introduction*

As a resident of Mandalong for 16 years I am keen to see consistent environmental care being applied by the applicant to the southern extension area. This care should evolve effectively if the requirements of the EIS are followed with a few alterations as suggested below.

Comments have been placed under headings for clarity.

### **Noise Issues**

While noise levels should be maintained within the limits required it would be responsible of the applicant to consider the fact that the constant noise from the site will create an added background noise 24/7. Some residents may be affected more than others so individual noise levels should be taken into account for affected properties during the work process. Residents living near the site would benefit by additional noise reduction practices as soon as noise levels are exceeded. A reasonable request would be to see a cumulative noise and mitigation impact modelled for the construction stage.

### **Surface water and ponding.**

While statements have been made in the EIS that there will be little effect on flood levels and the Mandalong Road floods at present at a floodway above the access road, it would be responsible of the applicant to ensure both access into nearby properties and movement along Mandalong Road is not an issue for residents at such times.

Even a small increase in ponding may have detrimental effects on trees and pasture in that area. It is imperative the applicant carry out immediate mitigation in such circumstances to prevent long term effects.

Increased discharge volume at LDP001 in Cooranbong from approximately 1.5ML/day to approximately 7ML/day needs to be carefully monitored along with the resultant increase in Nickel and other metal content. There is inadequate data allowing complete assessment of the impacts that may occur on water resources. It would be irresponsible of the applicant to fail to carry out further assessment of macroinvertebrate and water chemistry sampling at a publishable scientific level.

Water pollution and ecological damage from the existing coal mine is a major issue so more accurate baseline data is necessary in order to assess levels of potential future impacts. (See Appendix 1)

## **Biodiversity**

There is the potential for significant loss of vegetation and soil around the construction of the Mandalong Southern Surface site resulting in the loss of habitat. Consequently it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this does not occur when working at the site.

## **Soil Problems**

The Magnesic - Matric Brown Kurosol Soil type 3 being the representative profile for Mandalong has risk of erosion and sedimentation on disturbance. (See Soil and Land Capability Assessment pp18-19). This is the soil type of the proposed Mandalong Southern Surface Site and access road. These dispersible soils are prone to erosion known as tunnel erosion leaving large hollows below the surface which may collapse with the weight of a human, large animal or vehicle. Large slumps may also occur thus the responsibility of the applicant will be to manage these soils with due diligence throughout the area.

Site works timed to allow immediate topsoil placement from one area to another would be a method of maintaining soil viability.

## **Traffic**

While traffic counts have been undertaken for the EIS and a suggestion made that the road 'as is' is safe and does not need upgrading it is surely a responsibility of the applicant to provide a side track along Mandalong Road for cyclists, horse riders and walkers who are affected by the increased traffic particularly as most of the increase in vehicular movement will be large vehicles.

In order to reduce the likelihood of erosion and increased airborne dust it would be beneficial to residents to seal the access road.

## **Social**

The EIS document states that there will be ongoing consultation and engagement with the impacted community. This community has been altered extensively by the impact of mining

in the valley to date. It is suggested that the responsibility of the applicant would be to reduce the impact somewhat by improving the width of Mandalong Road and adding a side track for use by all residents. There has been little benefit given to any Mandalong resident by the applicant so far and such a provision would ensure a positive community effect.

### **Relocation of Power Line**

As consultation is ongoing with TransGrid re the need to relocate the 330kw transmission line in order to avoid undermining of the TransGrid towers much of the impact statement regarding erosion, water flow, visual aspects and noise is questionable as the presentation could alter significantly. Hence, is this EIS viable without the final location of the line being provided?