

We are writing in regards to the Mandalong Southern Extension EIS.

We have lived in the Mandalong area about 14 years ago and established a business. We have three businesses we run from home. This includes the Mandalong Gallery, situated on the corner of Mandalong and Little Valley Road (southern side). Our Gallery is listed with the Lake Macquarie Tourism Association as a Mandalong tourist attraction. Our property is located in close proximity to the proposed development of infrastructure and according to the EIS Noise Assessment we will be impacted by noise. We have views of the area where the infrastructure will be built. Others in the area have closed their business from home due to the prospect of mining in the area at that time, such as a local B&B and an Information Technology company.

We are very concerned about the impact of the proposed Mandalong Southern Extension EIS.

We would like an answer to the concerns we have listed below.

1. Noise from the construction

From the mine ventilation shaft and road construction, which is proposed to be 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Our Gallery is only open on the weekends. Visitors to our gallery often comment on the peaceful atmosphere and how quiet it is. Noise on the weekend will disrupt our business.

I have a sleeping problem which I have sought medical assistance for in the past. I am very concerned that any additional noise at night will exacerbate my sleeping problem. We are listed as being significantly impacted by noise on the EIS noise assessment.

This will have a major impact on everyone's rural living lifestyle. Having lived in the area for such a long time it is very hard to come to terms with the fact that our peaceful lifestyle will be no longer for such a significant amount of time. 78 weeks is too long to put up with noise without a break. Please leave us with our weekends free from traffic and noise disruption. We live in a rural environment for one reason only and that is to enjoy the respite from life it offers. Centennial Coal's proposal is ignoring our rights as landowners to have peaceful enjoyment of our properties. If this construction has to take place, then we strongly request Dept. of Planning to ensure it is only normal business hours being Monday to Friday only.

We want to see specifically what measures will be put in place to reduce noise. And we want a better noise map that shows the noise from all the stages of construction over a wide area.

2. Flooding in Mandalong

We are concerned, after looking at the Surface Water Impact Assessment EIS, about the impacts of changes in water flows on the catchment, and in particular, the effect on local properties. We are concerned about the quality of the water and loss of riparian bushland through a change in water flows from subsidence. We are particularly concerned about the effects of flooding. More flooding is going to impact our local roads, which have already deteriorated and need upgrading. The mine plan needs to be adjusted to ensure that changes to water flows do not occur, and in particular, there is no increase to flooding. A development consent condition should be put in place to give landowners rights to obtain compensation to have their access roads reconstructed to acceptable standards. In addition, the local roads upgraded.

3. Trucks on Mandalong Road

During the construction phase of the ventilation shaft and access road, there will be an increase in heavy vehicles. This has an impact on our use of the area. My grandchildren visit often and ride their bikes on the local roads. We are concerned for their safety. Mandalong Road is predominantly used for local landowners. There is very little heavy vehicle traffic on it. The traffic that Mandalong Southern Extension area will be trucks. It is a huge safety issue with the increase of trucks particularly in parts of the road where there is minimal verge to move to safety. The road is narrow and uneven. There is no provision to move safely off the road if need be. The road needs to be improved and widened. Ideally, a walker/bike rider path should be constructed alongside the road to enable the community to continue to use the road for their recreational use.

We are also concerned about dust levels created from trucks. I get chronic sinus and increasing dust levels will make this condition worse.

4. Improving Mandalong in return for what has been taken away by mining

An overseas company is mining in our valley, impacting our lifestyles and properties, and giving us nothing in return. The EIS doesn't state anything about what is going to benefit the residents of this valley we have called home for over 14 years that is now going to be changed forever. The mine takes over the

valley, but the valley gets nothing in return from the mines. There should already be a beautification process in place with the current Centennial Coal Mandalong mining, which has been in the valley for 10 years – and in those 10 years they have done nothing. We as landowners seem to lose no matter which way you look at mining in the area.

There is very little consideration of our natural environment. Mining affects the value of our properties, it imposes noise, stress, water flow problems, loss of community. Many neighbours have sold out to the mining company and this has changed the community already. The Centennial Coal tenants don't look after the properties which affects the area.

We want to see direct investment in improving our community in lieu of what they are taking away. Without development consent conditions it will not happen. We want the mining company to invest some of the wealth they are getting from the coal under our land to invest some of it back into beautifying the area. We want to see the environment (social and natural) be put in front of the business profit plans of overseas owned mining companies. It's not an impossibility to do this with minimal expenditure compared to the millions they make.

Some suggestions are recreational access on the side of Mandalong Road for walkers, cyclists, horse riders such as a formed track. Beautifying the entrance area of Mandalong, near the entrance to the current Mandalong Mine, with a sign and a small native landscaped area. Improving Mandalong Road to handle the extra traffic and provide better roads for residents. For example tar seal my road which is Little Valley Road and Chapman Road (opposite Little Valley Road). Investment in environmental projects in the area, such as improving the Mandalong wetlands and fencing, rehabilitating bushland areas particularly on the vast number of Centennial Coal owned properties and in the area of the infrastructure and power line relocation.

I sincerely ask that our Australian NSW State government imposes some conditions on the overseas owned Centennial Coal (making huge profits) to directly invest in projects that improve Mandalong.

5. Air quality and emissions

We are concerned about the quality of the air we breathe being polluted by gas, dust and other impurities emitted from the ventilation shaft during its construction and operation. We ask the Dept. of Planning to ensure there is no degradation of the quality of the air caused by the infrastructure and proposed works. Please include a strict develop consent condition on emissions. As we have minimal

pollution now, even a small amount, under criteria set in the EIS, will have an impact.