

Angela Besant
42 Little Valley Road
Mandalong NSW 2264

15th October, 2014

Mr Paul Freeman
Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure NSW
By email :

Re: items for consideration prior to draft conditions Mandalong Mine

Dear Paul,

There are several aspects of the Mandalong Extension Project that are still of concern to myself and others in the Mandalong community.

1. Traffic

The studies provided with the EIS are detailed regarding the intersections of Mandalong Road and the Mandalong Mine Main Office and the Southern Access point. However, little or no consideration has been given to the **safety** of road users between these two points.

The construction period will increase traffic movements to about 80 per hour where current levels are about 10 per hour (western side of Deaves Road).

There has been no consideration of the line of view for access points of adjoining roads and driveways, between the offices and the southern entry. For example to turn right (west) from Tobins Road has a line of site of less than 100m. These intersections will be particularly dangerous given that heavy vehicles, laden and empty will be travelling at 80 km per hour.

The school bus is unable to pull off Mandalong Road in many locations due to the lack of road shoulder. In addition the bus will be performing a U-turn at Chapman Road in the path of the additional heavy traffic. This issue has not been addressed in the response to submissions by Centennial or Lake Macquarie Council.

Centennial have indicated that road safety between the two points assessed under the EIS are the responsibilities of Council. Council have not had any comment on this issue.

The EIS and Council indicate that an audit of the condition of Mandalong Road will be undertaken at the end of the 2.5 year construction period. This implies that residents will be left with a deteriorating road throughout this period.

Mandalong Road is a rural road with a light traffic load. Poor line of site, lack of road shoulder, blind crests, concealed driveways and poor road line marking are a manageable safety concern when the traffic is primarily local and accustomed to driving the route.

The introduction of an eight fold increase in traffic, including heavy vehicles, articulated heavy vehicles, concrete trucks and transport of infrastructure components will **significantly** put the safety of local residents at risk.

Measures to ensure the safety of residents, cyclists, horse riders and other road users should be included in the Conditions of Consent.

2. Air Quality

The air quality predictions have shown that emissions will exceed the health based guidelines for particulate matter and odour at some receptors. The Mandalong Community are subject to emissions from numerous sources including Eraring, Vales Point and Lake Munmorah power stations. Lake Macquarie City Council have question the OEH regarding the lack of independent air quality in the Council area. The nearest air monitoring stations are Wallsend (well north) and Wyong (well south). The predominate breezes in the area are north-easterlies and south – easterlies which are likely to be moving airborne pollutants to the west.

The EIS for Mandalong does not seem to present a cumulative impact assessment that addresses all of these elements.

It would be useful to see OEH commence independent air monitoring that will produce results that are relevant to Mandalong. The Department could include this requirement in the Conditions of Consent.

3. Community Impacts

The current mine operations have had a significant impact on the Mandalong community particularly with the purchase of properties. Mandalong currently contains several home businesses and as consistent with Lake Macquarie Council's LEP further businesses could develop

Centennial is likely to be reviewing the provision of communication services for their operations. Currently Mandalong residents have poor or no mobile phone reception and no access to broadband internet. Enquiries with Telstra have indicated that there is no intention to upgrade services to the area indeed I was advised that the Federal Government have ruled out upgrades pending roll out of the NBN. Mandalong is not under consideration for the NBN at any time soon. It is known that an optical fibre line has been installed along Mandalong Road by private interests. The line has been abandoned. Centennial have discussed using this line with Telstra (pers comm).

It would be great for the southern Mandalong residents if:

- a) Centennial facilitate the connection of residents to the fibre optic line in the course of their discussions with Telstra.
- b) Upgrades to the mobile network be considered to service the southern fan shaft and residents.

Water Quality

The final point would be the sed dam and its capacity. The proposal is for a sed dam that will hold xxxx amount of water. The dam will overflow in a 1 in 20 year flood event and contaminated water will be discharged into Morans Creek. This would occur under an emergency discharge permit issued by the EPA.

It is not considered that a 1 in 20 year event constitutes an emergency. Such an event should be accommodated for particularly given recent years fluctuating weather patterns.

We hope to undertake further research into the frequency of such events over the last few years and the likelihood of these occurring in the life time of the dam.

Consideration for a larger capacity dam should be made so that any discharge event is indeed an emergency.

Thankyou for consideration of these points.

Sincerely

Angela Besant

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