



Dee and Amanda Heinemann
12189 Kamilaroi Highway, Emerald Hill NSW 2380

Dee: 0428 771169

Amanda: 0427 441153

24 October 2018

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Landholder Submission in Response to the EIS for the
Proposed Vickery Col Mine Expansion Project DA No SSD 7480**

We are landholders living and working immediately adjacent to the proposed mine and rail spur. We object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed project.

We object for the reasons outlined below:

Bore Water – we have an excellent bore which has not had any issues keeping up with our stock and domestic requirements at any stage over the past nearly 9 years. We are currently experiencing a second very dry spell with NO issues. We have major concerns that this will change and we will not have adequate water for our horses, cattle and domestic use.

Rain Water – several rain water tanks have been installed at the shed and house. We use this water through the house and for drinking water. We have great concerns about the amount of dust from the mine general operation, blasting and coal trains that will end up in our tanks making our water undrinkable, forcing us to implement an excellent and costly filtration system and continue to maintain the system at an extra expense.

Noise – we currently hear the coal trains that run through Emerald Hill so we will definitely hear the trains just off our boundary. Double glazed windows may help reduce the noise inside the house but what can be done for the constant noise of trains running as we are enjoying our property outside? We are a very active family and spend a lot of time outside riding and training horses.

Railway Line – From the very little information we have been able to obtain regarding the exact location of the rail spur we are concerned about the close proximity of the overpass and rail spur to our residence. In the area for these to be implemented it is not highly timbered or any other infrastructure to eliminate/reduce noise, light and dust.



The picture above is from our house roof. Brown paddock, green crop then brown again is the rail line paddock. It will also be quite an eyesore to look over the paddocks at.

Property value – we have lived here for nearly nine years and love the beautiful little property we have created by improving it greatly. If the need came to sell our property we believe the value of our property will decrease and any improvements would not be worth it. There is potential for less interest from buyers due to the mine and rail line being so close.

Lifestyle - As many others in our area that have smaller properties, we purchased a lifestyle that came with the properties and this lifestyle will be interrupted. We chose to live out of town away from close proximity to noise and chose the lovely views across the plains not coal mines and railway lines!

Another part of our lifestyle that we thoroughly enjoy as a family with our 7 year old son is riding horses. We currently train horses and ride along the boundary where the rail line will be only meters away. The boundary runs for quite a few kilometers and is great country to keep our competition horses fit and also put a few miles under the younger ones. How the hell will we be able to ride young horses that need long rides for education with coal trains going past? It will be very dangerous and impossible to do.



Above is a picture of our arena. We currently enjoy peaceful afternoons with our horses but with the rail line position being just behind the shed that would change, there would be nothing peaceful about it!

Flooding – With the over burden of the mine turned into huge levy banks and the train track it will change the flood water direction back onto our place. We have great concerns of the safety of our place, our buildings, dwelling and live stock. The coal that is lost from the train will also flow downstream onto our farm country with the top soil ruined.

Blasts – we ask that no blasting to be completed when any breeze/wind is blowing in our direction. We hope that this may reduce the amount of dust we end up under and in our drinking water tanks.

Telstra/Optus Tower – the tower that Telstra and now Optus have in the bottom corner of our property will be close to the infrastructure for the overpass and rail line. If the tower is negatively impacted in any way then we will lose the lease which is of significant value to us.

Yours faithfully

Dee and Amanda Heinemann