

Subject: - Vickery Coal Development bounding the property "Colstoun" Gunnedah NSW

We have read the correspondence that has been sent to us regarding the Vickery Coal Development. We keep getting told that our property "Colstoun" is not in the affectation zone. We find this a most ludicrous statement due to the proximity of both ventures.

My partner and I have many concerns that this mine development will affect us in many ways. No study can honestly deny this.

Our concerns include:

Dust Pollution – While our residence is located on the south east boundary of our property, much of our farming and grazing enterprise is located to the north west. This is a short distance from the mine site. How can anyone predict that we will not be affected by the dust from this development in good conscience. Our crops and grazing pastures will be coated, they can't possibly not be.

Noise Pollution – We already hear and feel the existing mines to the north of us currently. One can only assume the closer the mine and works the greater the noise.

Light Pollution – Are we and our stock and crops to live in perpetual torch light. How can anyone say that we will not be affected by the lights when anyone who currently lives close to existing mines experiences these issues. Constant light source will affect the way our crops grow as many are reliant on day length to determine maturity. Most plants are like this. Based on the experiences of other landholders close to the Tarrawonga mine, crop production reduction go hand in hand with light pollution.

Changes to previous EIS :-

We must address that the new noise figures supplied recently, and their reduction compared to the previous study. We are confused that the new lesser figures are based on a mine that is considerably larger than the original proposal. A larger development must create at least the same pollution amounts as its smaller counterpart. This is mere common math and sense. Realistically however, the bigger the development the bigger pollution quantities. It can't possibly be any other way.

Blue Vale Road Realignment

To the common man it appears that the realignment of the road heading north appears to be in the bottom of Stratford creek or at best diverting some or all the flow from the surrounding area. Where is this water to go?

We use this road to travel and transport machinery between our two properties. We are concerned about the quality of the realignment regarding the movement of oversize farm equipment and access during inclement weather.

We are majorly concerned about the water table. This is our main source of stock and domestic water, one of the reasons we purchased Colstoun. The mine development says the aquifer won't be affected but what if the study is wrong as it appears in so many other outcomes. If you damage or destroy the aquifer you can't fix it. No amount of money or pen pushing can.

This mine is very close to the township. Has there been any consideration for the towns people and potential future pollution?

Flora and fauna – what is to become of them? Just remove them from the environment with no consequence for theirs and our future generations.

Coal – we can't use it, but we can send it overseas to be used in coal fired power stations. We have some of the most expensive power and gas costs in the world. All we hear is reducing emissions by cutting out the use of coal. Why then do we let big business dig our precious resources out of the ground, pollute our environment, and then export the same product that we can't use in this country. "Not in my back yard" attitude. This is all so farcical and ridiculous.

We must fight to protect the future of our farm, home and business because big business wants to make money with little or no respect for what will become of us or our surrounding environment.

In summation, we will be adversely affected by this development, both business and quality of life wise. Due to our property being so close to the development it is impossible, in our view, not be adversely affected. Based on the conceptual final rehab and regen of the site, the final void ends up just two kilometres from our northern boundary in open clear pasture land. Based on this information our property will be one of the closest, if not the closest privately-owned farm to an open cut pit in the Gunnedah basin. At no stage throughout the mines life is the open cut further than six kilometres from our boundary! How much that side of our farm is going to be affected remains to be seen, however if any of our farm is affected it will severely affect our business. Our submission to the first Vickery mine development still now points out the ongoing inadequacies, half-truths and omissions that are contained in this current EIS, more of the same.

We ask that more consideration be given to this proposal.