

RE: Marulan South Limestone Mine SSD-7009

We are **Gary & Marci Lakin**, and we landowners in Tallong, NSW. We are writing to express our objections and concerns regarding the above application for the following reasons:

1. **The math doesn't work:** The application proposes construction of a 118ML dam, to be filled and maintained from Tallong Dam -- which only has an 85ML capacity. If Boral were granted permission for this it would need to drain Tallong Dam 1.4 times over to even fill, let alone maintain, a new storage dam.
2. **This will have devastating consequences for the entire Tallong and Marulan communities.** Our properties and community rely on Tallong Dam and Barber's Creek for water usage and services, such as: irrigation and essential emergency rural fire resources, as well as water storage for drinking and domestic use. Water is an essential resource for our community and we rely on Tallong Dam and Barber's Creek as a key supplier of that resource. Even properties which do not directly rely on Tallong Dam or Barber's Creek for water supply and emergency firefighting resources have watercourses which run through them and which support valuable natural ecosystems and native plant and wildlife. Draining Tallong Dam would result in Barber's Creek and all linked watercourses running dry and would destroy those ecosystems and wildlife.
3. **It would leave Tallong Dam irreparably damaged and would destroy it as a resource for the community.** Even if Boral were to fill its proposed storage dam gradually, the difference in capacity means that filling and maintaining a 118ML storage dam from an 85ML (and often less in times of drought) resource would have devastating consequences for Tallong Dam which in turn will have devastating impact on the community. In addition to the environmental and economic consequences of this proposal, there will also be a significant negative impact on the quality of life. The community uses Tallong Dam as a recreational and scenic resource: it is a beautiful natural environment which is accessible to the public. It is used for swimming, kayaking and canoeing, family picnics and leisure activities. The suggestion that it be handed to a private sector company to plunder it for "storage" at the expense of the community is insensitive and offensive.
4. **Boral doesn't need the water:** its own application already acknowledges the dam it wants to build is only for "water storage", not because of any actual need. In any event, Boral already has a pipeline from Tallong Dam and pump stations on public land in Tallong which provide it with water. It should not now be given the right to take the entirety of the community's resource from Tallong Dam.
5. **Boral should not be given the right to take a public resource for its own private benefit.** Even if Boral did need that water - as opposed to merely wanting it - that does not entitle it to take a public resource to use for its own corporate benefit and deprive the whole community of that resource.
6. **The water in Tallong Dam is a public asset, not Boral's private asset.** Boral only has a 10 year lease, not an unlimited right to take and hoard the whole resource at the expense of

the community. If Boral were given that permission it would amount to a de facto privatisation of a public community asset.

7. **The character and operations of the mine are not compatible with the land use objectives of the RU1 zone.** Apart from the proposed water storage dam, the application also seeks a massive increase in mining operations overburden area. This will vastly increase noise, dust and air pollution with its associated health risks. This quiet and scenic rural community does not need more mining.

Finally, given the scale and impact of this application and its effect on our community, we are amazed and upset at the lack of engagement and communication with the public. **The proposal should be notified to every affected landowner** so that the public is properly informed and have an opportunity to have their say.

We object to the above referenced application for the reasons stated above. For the record, we have not made any reportable political donation during the last 2 years.

Sincerely
Gary & Marci Lakin

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10