

Bulga Milbrodale Progress Association Inc.



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Phil Jones (phil.jones@planning.nsw.gov.au)
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Sydney

Re Modifications 4 and 5 to the Hunter Valley Operations South Project (06-0261)

Dear Sir,

We refer to the application contained in the Coal & Allied letter of 26 September 2012 to amend the Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) South Projects Approval 06-0621. We object to the proposals contained in the application.

1. Process followed is not in the public interest nor procedural fairness

Firstly we object to the manner in which this modification has been processed. Modification 2 for HVO was publicly exhibited for a period of 6 weeks allowing the community proper time to prepare submissions. This current proposal only allows a very short time (just over one week) for the community to assess the impact of the proposal.

We understand that none the original objectors or supporters of the modification 2 have been advised by the DoPI of the new modifications 4 and 5 and this is not proper and transparent process. The haste in which this has been prepared is of concern to the community as it appears to be taking short cuts in order to assist the Coal and Allied to gain approval for the amendments. Further, additional information and changes to the original proposals has been provided by Coal & Allied in recent months. This additional information has changed the detail and nature of the offsets proposed for HVO and for the Warkworth Extension.

This major omission from the approval documents resulting in a loss of 140ha of conservation area is of grave concern to the community particularly as this omission was overlooked by the mine, the DoPI and the PAC. The DOPI and the PAC in particular did not carry out a proper independent assessment in arriving at their decision to approve the mine expansion.

The DoPI has not acted independently in this matter and is causing mistrust in the Community.

2. Contrary to DECCW standards

We consider the reallocation of the Archerfield property to an alternative site in the Goulburn River Biodiversity Area to be flawed as it is contrary to DECCW standards. For example: