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'ROSE PARK'
FOREST REEFS NSW 2798

1ST May 2015

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

We wish to lodge comments on the proposed Cadia East Modification 6 - Processing Rate Increase

Application Number - 06_0295 MOD 6

Our Background

When we purchased our property in 2002 on the corner of Ovington Lane and Carbine Road we were informed by our lawyer of the Ridgeway mine and that we should investigate further what would be the future of the area. As we were concerned we contacted the mine only to be told that in 10-15 years mining would be over, which we were satisfied with. At no point were we informed that Cadia East would ever exist. If we had of been informed of an underground mine the size of Cadia East being proposed for this area there is no way we would have continued with the purchase of this property knowing full well the ramifications of underground mining. In recent months I have been informed by a CVO public relations officer when complaining about a seismic event, that Cadia East was in the pipeline in 1996 but at that time they never had the money to initiate the project. So CVO were obviously aware of their future prospects but failed to disclose this to members of the public.

Up until 2010 when we started experiencing noises and vibrations and made further inquiries we were completely unaware of the Cadia East Project, if we had known at the time of Public Exhibition we most certainly would have lodged an objection to the development. It is very disturbing to learn, although we were listed as relevant landowners we were never contacted or informed by CVO.

Since 2010 we have complained to the mines on occasions about the ground borne vibration and associated noises we experience at our property including a plate shift that was most likely an event caused by the construction work on the Cadia East Mine which led to our bore pump becoming trapped with the need to have drillers come in and a new bore pump installed after the original pump was trapped by the plate shift.

CVO have offered to carry out monitoring of the noise and vibration at our property to which we have refused as any monitoring on our property will be done by independent consultants who have no affiliation with the mining industry.

CVO have offered to carry out monitoring of the noise and vibration on our property but upon our consultation with relevant experts we have had to refuse on the basis that it is recommended for obvious reasons that any monitoring on our property be conducted by independent consultants who have no affiliation with the mining industry.

We continue to monitor and record what happens at our premises and only complain when there is excessively intrusive vibration and noise even though there are many occasions when noise exceeds the Impact Assessment Criteria stated in the 2009 Cadia East Project EA and this noise is well beyond what was the predicated noise level for our property. We also worry about the potential of impacts on geological faulting and nearby derelict mines.

We have had many visitors who are a witness to the noise and have remarked about how loud the mine is in comparison to some other properties including properties at closer distances to the mine. In most cases it seems like a pointless exercise complaining as CVO always have an excuse which varies from occasion to occasion and which cannot be independently verified.

Community Consultation

Consultation with the community is not comprehensive as stated by CVO. As explained in the background we were never informed like many of our neighbours of the Cadia East Project and I have only been kept informed since complaining to the CVO public relations staff of the noise and vibration experienced at our property by way of newsletters. However some of my neighbours uniformed found out about this modification only because I notified them as they do not receive newsletters of any description from CVO. As relevant landowners one would think that CVO would make it their business to deliver these newsletters to all relevant landowners in the vicinity of the mining area and also inform them of the public meetings that exist.

Whilst the CVO Newsletter exists, it appears as purely a glossy picture of what the mine would have people believe and issues that are raised are often not portrayed as to the true situation.

The Community Consultative Committee appears to be a tick the box exercise and an exclusive meeting of hand-picked representatives that in no way reflect the whole community. I believe these meetings are closed to the community members not on the CCC. I am also led to believe that on a few occasions that a CVO employee has chaired these meetings which are supposed to be undertaken in an independent manner. It appears questionable as to if the members of the CCC have the best interests of **all** the community at heart based upon experiences to date.

From information I have received it appears that many negative issues surrounding the CVO Community Consultative Committee have been raised by others in the past.

Noise and Vibration

As stated in our background we experience noise and ground borne vibration produced by the operations at Cadia Valley.

In the EA for the Processing Rate Modification we note that it is stated that the Noise levels predicated for our property are raised by 1 to 3 dBA. However on occasions we already experience noise in terms of dBA above the Impact Assessment Criteria. What is alarming is that there is no accounting for the ILFN produced by mining operations in the Cadia Valley which we also experience at our residence. We believe the ILFN is produced by the operation of the sag mill and crushers with possible contributing factors of the vent fans and the movement of concentrate and the geo pumps that are used to facilitate the movement of the concentrate through the concentrate pipeline that runs past the property boundary of my parents property in front of our property. It is approximately 180 metres from my parents' residence and approximately 360 metres from our residence with a 90 degree turn in the pipeline on the corner.

Of course the noise and ground borne vibration we experience at our property is not unique to just us, I do know that others experience similar events of ground borne vibration (continuous and impulsive) and noise. This was also brought to the attention of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure in a few of the submissions to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm in December 2011 and it appears has fallen on deaf ears.

<https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/0f2d2e7892eba9240e0dbe6f040c6fc9/Mr%20Toby%20Philip.pdf>

"At our house Newcrest have a noise monitor installed as the noise from the mine currently is very close to the threshold noise levels."

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/551cf3b2c55bf71006de26672eb1444c/17-11-2011%2000_00_00_Exhibition%20of%20Environmental%20Assessment%20for%20Flyers%20Creek%20Wind%20Farm_.pdf

2. Little credence is given to the low frequency noise (infrasound) created by these monsters. It can make people ill. Since 2004 I have had poor sleep from the effects of low frequency noise due to our proximity to Cadia mine (8km away). Even though we are some distance from the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm, I fear the same for all those in the surround areas. The proposed distance from housing is vastly insufficient. Some informed papers on the subject state that this type of sound wave can travel up to between 10 to 20kms.

With the intended increase in volume to the Ore Processing and additional consequent proportional flow that would be anticipated through the concentrate pipeline one can only assume the noise and vibration (impulsive and continuous) will significantly increase. The Recommendations 5.6 of the Wilkinson Murray report would also indicate that the key noise criteria may only be achievable by incorporating modification measures; however there is no mention of the ILFN that could well be propagated by the operation of the said key infrastructure.

It is a well-known fact that mining operations produces ILFN .

It is also clearly evident in a statement made by a CVO staff member in 2012 that they have an understanding of the issues surrounding noise and ground borne vibration.

Central West Photo News "Running a multi-billion dollar gold mine". 2nd August 2012

Nedra Burns: "A lot of my work is with local farmers, who we regard as among our key stakeholders because of the noise, dirt, ground vibration and volumes of traffic that they have to put up with."

Until Full Spectrum Noise and Vibration monitoring becomes a mandatory requirement for all forms of machinery and infrastructure in industry which covers continuous and impulsive vibration as well as blasting, issues of noise and ground borne vibration will remain unaddressed as it continues to adversely impacts residents' sleep, health and wellbeing. It is a well-known fact that that excessive levels of noise and vibration known as "noise annoyance" to experts in low frequency noise such as Professor Geoffrey Leventhall, have the potential to cause Vibroacoustic disease, and have been acknowledged to exist by the Federal Department of Energy, Resources and Tourism in 2009⁽¹⁾

The lack of regulations in relation to noise and vibration is creating opposition to developments which in turn will create delays for developers which cost them money.

Full disclosure of technical specifications for all infrastructure including crushers, electric motors and conveyor gearboxes and any noise or vibration sources associated with the operation of the mine should be a prerequisite.

Cumulative development

The cumulative impacts of future development of the area have not been referenced in this EA. CVO are very well aware of the approval with conditions of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm. Wind farms are a great source of noise and vibration ⁽²⁾ and the cumulative impacts could be extremely adverse for many residents who already experience noise and vibration from the operation of Cadia East mine and its associated infrastructure.

Whilst the final approval for Flyers Creek Wind Farm has not yet been granted due the developers not yet meeting their conditions of consent this project has the support of the NSW Department of Planning as shown with the latest extension granted to FCWF, yet there is no condition to address the cumulative impacts ⁽³⁾ let alone address the ILFN.

As what appears to be the industrialisation of a once tranquil rural area one has to wonder of the long term cumulative impacts with CVO mining and processing ore in large quantities, Flyers Creek Wind Farm if constructed and becomes operational and the recent addition of NBN towers which emit EMR's and the ramifications this industrialisation could have on the existing mine, structural integrity of the turbines, gas pipeline and derelict mines in the area. What position does this put the safety of our communities and environment in? Recent seismic events in this area, one in particular appears to have raised issues surrounding the stability of the mine, so what of the long term ramifications.

Water

CVO state that *“the additional average daily water demand would be approximately 18.5%, in line with the predicted processing increase.”*

As some of the water used at the mine already is extraction from groundwater bores, local creeks and dams one would be concerned with the future supplies for local properties. The case of the Whiteley's and Cadia Valley Operations clearly defines the long term ramifications that can be experienced. Of course the Whiteley's is not an isolated case and it is a known fact in our community that others have experienced similar situations with loss of water. One wonders then, what is the future of the water supply regardless of what is stated in the EA as the increased water demand of 18.5% is a significant increase even though it is still covered by the current water licences that are held by CVO.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/water-issues/farmers-up-the-creek-face-water-war-with-mine/2008/03/16/1205602195083.html>

Conclusion

Whilst we are not opposed to appropriate development and see the need for industry to prosper for a healthy financial state, we are opposed to industrial development that changes the environment in which we live that has no regard for the wellbeing and amenity of the local community.

People have the right to choose the nature of their acoustical environment; it should not be imposed by others, nor should the amenity, health and safety of residents and local workers be placed at risk.

The growth of industry in rural areas comes with potential health effects from many sources and one of the greatest impacts is noise pollution.

Noise pollution produces direct and cumulative adverse effects that impair health and degrade rural, residential, social, working and learning environments with corresponding real (economic) and intangible well-being losses. It interferes with sleep, concentration, communication and recreation.

The onus is on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to set regulations and provide criteria to be met by industry that protects the citizens from the adverse impacts created by industrial developments. Noise and ground borne vibration is a recognised hazard and as such needs to be carefully and diligently assessed not denied.

Community Consultation needs to include all relevant landowners within vicinity that is appropriate and not be an exclusive exercise that ticks a box.

Past, existing and future industry needs to be addressed with independent cumulative impact studies carried out.

The NSW DoPE are clearly failing in their "Duty of Care" if they allow this modification to be approved based solely on the information provided.

Yours sincerely

Patina Schneider

On behalf of P & J Schneider

(1) *AIRBORNE CONTAMINANTS, NOISE AND VIBRATION* Australian Government Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism October 2009
http://www.industry.gov.au/resource/Documents/LPSDP/AirborneContaminantsNoiseVibrationHandbook_web.pdf (section 3.2 in particular)

(2) *THE RESULTS OF AN ACOUSTIC TESTING PROGRAM CAPE BRIDGEWATER WIND FARM*
44.5100R7:MSC The Acoustic Group 26 November 2014
<https://www.wind-watch.org/documents/results-of-an-acoustic-testing-program-cape-bridgewater-wind-farm/>

(3) *REVIEW – FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM APPROVAL* 25th November 2013- L.Huson and Associates LHA322 February 2014