



30 May 2013

Mr Matthew Sprott
Planning Officer/Mining Project
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Sent by email – matthew.sprott@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sprott

Objection to Mt Arthur Open Cut expansion

Redman Park is a thoroughbred horse stud and lucerne farm on the outskirts of Denman, clustered among other studs such as Darley Woodlands, Amarina Farm, and Coolmore, vineyards and dairy / beef operations.

Our thoroughbred business is integrated into the equine critical cluster of the Upper Hunter. Not only do we provide boutique broodmare and racehorse spelling facilities but we produce quality lucerne.

We have some concerns based on limited knowledge/consultation of the project.

There is no guarantee, acknowledgment or commitment this will be the last expansion by BHP, and that they won't continue to expand towards our property. "Mine Creep" exacerbates the incredible uncertainty in this area that is so heavily dominated by mining, squeezing out other business. Can they rule out any interest in the Spur Hill EL or Anglo's Drayton South proposed mines?

We are concerned about cumulative health impacts. There seems to be no limit to the amount of new or expanded mining operations in the small area between Singleton and Denman/Aberdeen – we are nestled between Jerrys Plains and Denman – what are the cumulative dust impacts on us if BHP expands further (given their EL boundary size), and other mines expand (Mangoola/Bengalla) and in the event Spur Hill, Yarrawa, and Drayton South commence operations – this is frightening. An independent assessment of cumulative health impacts of this expansion /modification needs to be undertaken.

We have been advised the surface and ground water analysis is inadequate - we have not received consultation as to the downstream impacts on us.

As a lucerne producer and broodmare farm, quality water is paramount. We are concerned with groundwater and surface water issues and we are not confident that the natural environment/ systems we rely on can tolerate more mining. I am concerned that BHP may potentially extend beyond the 150 metre buffer zone from the Hunter River. If this happens, what is the mine's management solutions/mitigation strategies if it extends closer to the river. We are concerned about the impact of mining on the alluvial aquifer associated with the floodplain of the Hunter. We are advised the data provided is not consistent limiting the modeling BHP have based their work on.

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Lastly, I am not against mining as diversity is important in this valley for future sustainability, but the burden this mine and all the other surrounding mines /proposed mines is at a tipping point for the community and land holders. We find it frustrating, expensive, alarming and threatening to our livelihood that we have to continually divert our own time, people and money away from running our profitable quality business to monitor/stay on top of latest mine developments.

The time of 4 weeks to respond to a major mine proposal is daunting. We do not have the experience (or the ability to employ an expert) to fully appreciate the enormity of this project and its impacts and requires a public independent assessment which should also look at the cumulative and potential cumulative impacts. This could potentially be good for everyone and gives a level of assurance to the community that the mine company is doing the right thing..

There is no certainty with any mine proposal. Is this BHP's last expansion? Meanwhile we have to contend with and deal with on the ground with Spur Hill, Yarrawa and Drayton South mining proposals. Irrespective of environmental and resource impacts, where is the certainty and time to run and invest in our business with confidence?

Yours sincerely
REDMAN PARK PTY LTD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AST', is positioned above the printed name of the signatories.

Amanda & Stuart Thomas
DIRECTORS