

Thursday 18 February 2021

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**OBJECTION AND SUBMISSION to CADIA VALLEY OPERATIONS MOD 14 –
INCREASED PROCESSING RATE**

Application number - MP06 0295-Mod-14

I OBJECT unequivocally to Cadia Valley Operations (CVO) – Newcrest Modification 14 – increased processing rate. Further objections are noted throughout this submission.

I live at 2136 on the address listed above, and also own 2135 and 2146 on Figure 1-2a in the 01. Modification Report.

Below is a specific list of objections to this major project.

1. Notification & Consultation – CVO and DPIE.
2. Dust Issues
3. Air Quality
4. Proposal to lift the NTSF wall by 40m
5. Water Resources
6. Intergenerational Concerns

1. Notification & Consultation

Having objected to many submissions before including previous Modifications for CVO & Regis Resources we are unsure why notification had not been received from DPIE of this Exhibition period beginning on January 21 this year? There was no email notification nor letter of notification at all. We call in to question the timing of this Exhibition Period during the School Summer Holiday season and Australia Day weekend during this time. A major project such as this, with over a thousand pages 14 days in not adequate time for research and follow-up consultation with CVO and other experts. Our feeling is that time has not been on the wider community's side with such a capacious document.

Regarding recent correspondence from CVO, between December 2020 and Feb 1 I have received no less than 16 emails from Cadia Staff – namely Jane Chung, Lindsey Tilburg & Matt Armstrong. An email was received pertaining to the Modification 14 Public Notice dated December 18 from Lindsey

Tilburg— however no date at the time had been set for the Exhibition Period. When the exhibition period was announced to CVO on Jan 11, **THERE WAS NO CORRESPONDENCE INFORMING THE 280 CADIA PROPERTY OWNERS OF THIS EXHIBITION PERIOD.** Relying on DPIE to ensure communicate, this evidently has not worked and having spoken directly to at least 30 landowners 2 received the letter from DPIE one letter was received 27 Jan and the other Feb 5 – DURING the exhibition period! This document is an enormous undertaking for those not working in the sphere of Mining. And, I call into question Cadia Newcrest's circuitous behaviour over many years, whilst endeavouring to be friends with the community. My family, having lived in the Errowanbang/Burnt Yards area for the past 99 years, are passionate agricultural and community advocates willing to speak up on agricultural, environmental and community matters.

2. Dust Issues & Breaches.

I agree and adopt generally John Gerathy's comments from his submission on Dust from the NTSF and STSF surfaces at Cadia.

'Complaints by Cadia Residents to the EPA, record, with photographs and videos supplied, serious dust events since mid 2018 emanating from the NTSF and STSF surfaces which events have not ceased despite attempts by Cadia with aerial and panther spraying/ mulching of both dams! Refer to the scheduled correspondence referred to above in particularly in relation to dust from the NTSF and STSF.'

Cadia failed for nearly two years, after the March 2018 NTSF slump (bankment collapse) to apply sufficient works or funds to control this dust. Following constant complaint and pressure from Cadia Residents Cadia in April 2020 started to apply proper resources to try and control silica dust emissions from the NTSF and STSF and report monthly to Residents.

Despite Cadia's efforts as described at great length in these monthly reports dust is still regularly blanketing the community and Cadia continually treats major dust events just as a matter of recording. The gravity of their breaches is sought to be lost in their reports' works details.' John Gerathy Submission dated 18.02.2021

Our home and livelihood as Graziers of grass-fed beef and lamb lies to the east south east of Cadia Newcrest mining area. Further below are pages of photos ranging from March 2018 until as recently as Feb 12 2021 of dust breaches. For us, as Graziers no-one from Cadia, or any experts called into support can answer our ongoing question of what happens when this dust and small levels of particulate matter are ingested by ruminant livestock and then this enters the food chain? A question I continue to ask and proactively address, having done so for the better part of 2 ½ years. It is now standard practice for me to text Cadia staff – namely Matt Armstrong photos and video, as well as notifying him of our next call, to the EPA. I have made in excess of 6 calls to the EPA. For the record the EPA have never visited us onsite and have only made contact twice with regards to incidents on 6 March & 26 April 2020.

The visual evidence below speaks for itself. Remembering, that both tailings dams have a combined surface area of approx. 700Ha or 1730 acres (or 1308.3 football fields!), this is the area that dust has billowed off during the past 3 years. Each one of these dates also corresponds with EPA notification and emailing of photos/videos.

7 August 2019





6 September 2019



4 October 2019



26 Feb 2020







23 March 2020



22 April 2020





26 April 2020

This dust event is by far the worst to date and spewed dust off 700ha like a giant gently boiling cauldron, cascading a fog due east, south east, south and at times to the north. I never wish to experience this level of dust and particulate matter again. It was truly a horrendous day. This event **occurred 25 months after the dam wall collapse**. I make no apology for the volume of photos shared here. It is incredibly important that my family are heard at this level – the visual evidence here is highly damning and equated to our knowledge, in a fine by the EPA to CVO to the value of \$15,000 – this is utterly nonsensical and offensive to those who have been proactive in their community efforts to call CVO & the EPA to action! This PIN was issued by the EPA on 31 July for 3 events dated from 5 March 2020.







Facing east up our driveway 1576 Burnt Yards Rd



Facing south to Cheesmans Mount



Facing to the north east from Burnt Yards Rd our house is in between the first and second steel post on fence line.







Dust blowing for hours over pristine basalt grazing landscapes



26 January 2021



12 February 2021





18 February 2020





SUBMISSION

I request the DPI&E in assessing this Mod 14 Application call for and consider all records of the EPA and Cadia/Newcrest dealing with dust complaints since March 2018.

3. Air Quality

I agree and adopt generally Mike & Frances Retallick's significant research on air quality and particulate matter within landscapes surrounding CVO, this is quoted as below. To me, this is highly obvious given the atrocious dust visuals shared in many pages of photographs over the last 20 months in the previous section. The concern is of course to human health, flora and fauna health, as well as livestock health as this enters the wider food chain into supermarkets and butcheries across the eastern seaboard.

'For several years there has been a high level of community concern in regard to the long term risks to health resulting from the air borne pollution generated by CVO activities.

The currently identified ore reserve is 2900 dry tonnes, at a production rate of 32 Mtpa the life of the mine is in excess of 80 years. Therefore, many residents exposure to dust will be lifelong, there will be a measurable impact upon their morbidity, particularly for vulnerable age groups such as infants and the elderly.

CVO's current air quality criteria (Appendix F Table 3-1) is determined in effect by PA 06-0295 and is based upon air quality standards in place at the time of the original approval 30 years ago. These standards did not consider fine particles which are more dangerous and travel further. This air quality standard is now obsolete and less onerous than standards expected by the World Health Organisation and the current NSW EPA impact assessment criteria. The current NSW EPA Impact Assessment Criteria are discussed in Appendix F Table 3.3.

CVO barely complies with the current air quality standards and definitely will not comply, even at the current production rate, with the planned 2025 NSW EPA requirements of PM_{2.5} annualised at 7 µg/m³ and over 24 hours at 20 µg/m³.

Submission

- a) That Cadia's Air Quality Criteria be updated to reflect the current EPA guidelines and be kept up to date;**
- b) Cadia's production be limited to comply with prescribed air quality standards and**
- c) Given Cadia's current dust events in breach of SSDA Condition 17 no increase in annual ore processing rate be approved.**

4. Proposal to lift the NTSF wall by 40m

The prospect of embankment extension on the NTSF our understanding is this is not needed, nor required for the currently approved life of the mine to 31 July 2031. There are some levels of confusion as to what the actual steepness of the bank may be in a variety of Cadia Newsletter reports. The steepness ranges from 3:1 to 2.5:1 to 2:1 – which is actually correct?

Since the slump of the dam wall in March of 2018 with a **length of approximately 213m** from a simple thinking point of view I fail to understand how this can be repaired and add 40-44m onto this in approximately 11 staged lifts? Safety is a key concern here for individuals as well as the environment in the event of further potential slumps and how this may potentially impact the Belubula, Lachlan and further down Darling Rivers. When is enough enough?

The visual impact and prospect of this will mean that many landowners will lose the entirety of their view of Mt Canobolas. Over the past 15 years with Modification changes and allowances the NTSF and STSF have become a dominant eyesore in the valley and area.

I truly hold no confidence, that there has been adequate consultation with the community and indeed the Central Tablelands Region by CVO. In a very last minute and brief meeting at the Panuara Tennis Courts on 4 February 2021 with staff from CVO present, the question was asked had this level of repair been completed on a tailings dam somewhere in the world and then placed a 40-44m lift in stages on it safely and successfully? I've had no follow-up from CVO on this question.

SUBMISSION

- a) **That no approval be given to uplift the NTSF embankment by 40M**
- b) **That no approval be given to any uplift of the NTSF save for a few metres to create a dam to hold water and completely suppress dust emanating from its surface- (this dam could be used to augment Cadia's water supply).**
- c) **That no approval be given to uplift the NTSF embankment unless and until Cadia has applied for and had approved an SSDA Application to extend the ore output and life of the mine.**

5. Water Resources

Water as a resource in Australia is treasured by many, especially those in sectors where it is utilised within business. The requested increase of 10% water increase, in line with the increase of processing from 32 to 35 Mtpa, 176Ml/day or 176,000,000L/day of water is difficult to get one's head around. Where is this addition water to come from? And this again, circles back to the request of independent water reporting on a monthly basis, of WHERE CVO actually draws down and utilises its water each month.

I adopt and agree generally to Mike & Frances Retallick's summation in their submission.

'The proposed modification to 35Mtpa increases the water requirements for the CVO site. It is envisaged that this requirement will be met by efficiencies of the PTSF.'

Commissioning of the NTSF and STSF will put more demands on the amount of water required due to evaporation and seepage / leakage. The last few years have been marked by water shortages for all members of the community. Shortage of water is currently a major constraint in development of further ore reserves in our region, (proposed McPhillamys mine near Blayney). In the interests of the environment and broader community a fair and sustainable level of water sharing needs to be established. We believe that this level is probably that required for 30 Mtpa (i.e., less than the current approved rate of production). The purpose of setting production levels is to ensure that the business operates within sustainable and responsible parameters, rather than limited resources being stretched to meet a random short term economic goal driven by executive compensation and short term shareholder returns.

Purchasing Belubula River water entitlements downstream and extracting upstream has negative effects on the health of the river in our district.'

There are many environment agencies and concerned community minded citizens, who are also concerned of where will all this extra water come from and importantly how will it potentially effect aquifers and water tables throughout the Orange, Panuara, Errowanbang and surrounding village areas.

<https://www.centralwesterndaily.com.au/story/7129413/concerns-mine-expansions-will-drain-valuable-water-supplies-in-central-west/?cs=103>

Even across at Kings Plains, Regis Resources are hoping to build a tailings dam on top of 20 springs (as stated in their EIS) that make up the headwaters of the Belubula River that threads down into the Murray – Darling Basin. Simply ludicrous!!! The risk of leaching into water streams, underground streams and aquifers is utterly mindboggling!!

Locally (and perhaps this is only anecdotal to some), there have been marked changes to bore flows and creek/stream flows over the last 15 years. This is an incredibly common story and conversation within the area. Seeing is believing and when you are connected to a landscape in the way that we are and knowing it as you do – subtle changes are very easily picked up. Changes for example in the Flyers Creek flows. According to Jann Harries – our neighbour at Old Errowanbang property 2124 on map, has noted that that the creek ceased to flow a couple of times during the 19/20 summer period. Letter by Jann Harries and John Gerathy had been sent to Cadia regarding this concern – well prior to the announcement of Mod 14.

SUBMISSION

- a) Any Mod 14 Approval must be conditioned to require Cadia to release all of its water reports and water drawdown records , to the Department and Cadia Residents and adopt within a monthly reporting regime to Cadia Residents , by an independent certifier , on water drawn down by Cadia from all sources including its plant , pits , rivers , dams ,creeks , watercourses and bores both in terms of volume and respective percentage from the particular source of the total licensed drawdown at that time and as a percentile of each drawdown of the allowable annual volume permitted from that particular source .**
- b) In addition to water usage, Cadia's operations and tailings dams pollution of both the surface streams and aquifers must cease before any further approvals by DPI&E can be made.**

6. Intergenerational Concerns

I am part of an intergenerational agricultural family business. With 3 children ages 17, 14 and 11 Stuart & I are beginning succession planning with our children and at this stage all are keen to explore becoming involved in our grazing business. They will be the fifth generation to potentially live and work in the vibrant agriculture sector known and loved by many Australians. The Mining industry is

the backbone of the Australian economy AND so too, in many ways is the Australian Agricultural sector. The value of agriculture is becoming more important especially during times such as a global pandemic – we can support our country with ease, producing fruits, vegetables, grains and proteins such as beef, lamb, pork chicken and the fisheries industry too. Water is a key resource along with soils that are regenerated over time to produce nutrient dense produce for Australian consumers. This is the keystone to our country's health and wellness, clean water, along with healthy productive soils. **The point being we are far better off to work together.** I am prepared to do this and request that Cadia Newcrest engages more heartily in truly ethical and moral discussions around production, utilization of resources, environmental impacts, social, moral & ethical responsibilities. At Chesney Pastoral our vision is to be an enterprise that inspires perpetual success, creates win-win relationships and promotes prosperity in our community. Currently, we have zero alignment with CVO mining based on our personal and business vision and CVO's mining practices. And, I am open for this to change and will never shut the door on the evolution of neighbourly relationships.

As it stands, there is that much conflicting information in and around the current approved mine life and what Newcrest's plans truly are with their Vision for Cadia. CVO speaks only of what is 'approved' – we understand this and would appreciate the decency of Newcrest sharing their intentions directly with the community rather than just to investors and shareholders who are of course to be informed from a business and profitability point of view. Our family deserves to know what potential plans may be – so that we can make life choices that suit us as well. For example, the innuendo of the potential of a third tailings dam on 'Meribah' (property 41,58,171,2122,229), and the potential of losing part of the Panuara Rd. Where does that leave families who own properties and require access along this road as a main throughfare for the running of their agricultural businesses?

The intergenerational inequity lies in simply not knowing where Newcrest – CVO is truly heading. Our family deserves to hear the information and plans from Newcrest even if we are not shareholders of Newcrest Mining, and even if the goalposts change with time. We are neighbours. The unknown for us and our business is where Newcrest will take CVO to from an expansion, processing and utilisation of resources point of view. I am seeking this information for ourselves and our children. Herein lies the intergenerational challenge and inequity of a corporate neighbour. Our business is ever expanding. Should we be looking in another regional area to expand that is unimpeded by a corporate mining business? This is one of many questions we reflect on often, as the Modifications continue to be put in and placed with DPIE.

As presented to Newcrest Investors and Shareholders by Francesca Lee & Claire Hannon in November of 2019, the reality of CVO's future is very different to what is being shared at a 'grassroots' level with local landowners. This 'Vision for Cadia Building Cadia for a 50 year Future, page 23 of the below link speaks of 'Cadia – uniquely long life' and further indicates the time frame of gold mining on the Cadia Expansion Studies through to approximately 2065. This has not been presented to the local community directly as a potential, and so in some respects we 'fly blind' with information shared with us directly by CVO as it ONLY PERTAINS TO THE APPROVED LIFE OF THE MINE.

https://www.newcrest.com/sites/default/files/2019-11/191118_Newcrest%20Investor%20and%20Analyst%20Presentation.pdf

SUBMISSION

- a) This “Vision for Cadia “document (in link above), demonstrates why this Modification should not be approved unless and until a full blown SSDA Modification Application setting out the expansion proposals in this publication, including a mine life to 2065, can be fully ventilated with the community and properly assessed particularly in the context of increasing ore processing to 35Mtpa and lifting the failed NTSF embankment by 40 metres.

Summation

“Sustainable mining means engaging and respecting local communities, assessing and managing safety social and environmental impacts, and making ethical and transparent strategic business decisions. This approach delivers safe and profitable operations.”

NEWCREST MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO - SANDEEP BISWAS

Source <https://www.newcrest.com/sustainability/our-sustainability-vision>

Newcrest further states;

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- *Newcrest’s broad range of stakeholders reflects the diversity of our operations, activities and industry.*
- *Our aim is to involve our stakeholders in decisions that affect them and to understand their point of view.*
- *To achieve this, we build and maintain open, inclusive and constructive relationships with all stakeholders through listening, respectful dialogue and integrating diverse perspectives into pragmatic solutions.*
- *Our engagement methods are tailored to suit stakeholder needs – we use both formal and informal processes, depending on the relationship and communication context.*
- *We work closely with our employees and contractors, local communities, governments and regulators, shareholders (investors and lenders), suppliers and customers.*
- *We also engage with the broader mining industry through industry groups, as well as non-government organisations, education and research bodies, the media and the public. We record, measure and review our engagement on a regular basis to ensure it is effective. Below are topics of interest raised by each stakeholder group and the engagement methods we use.*

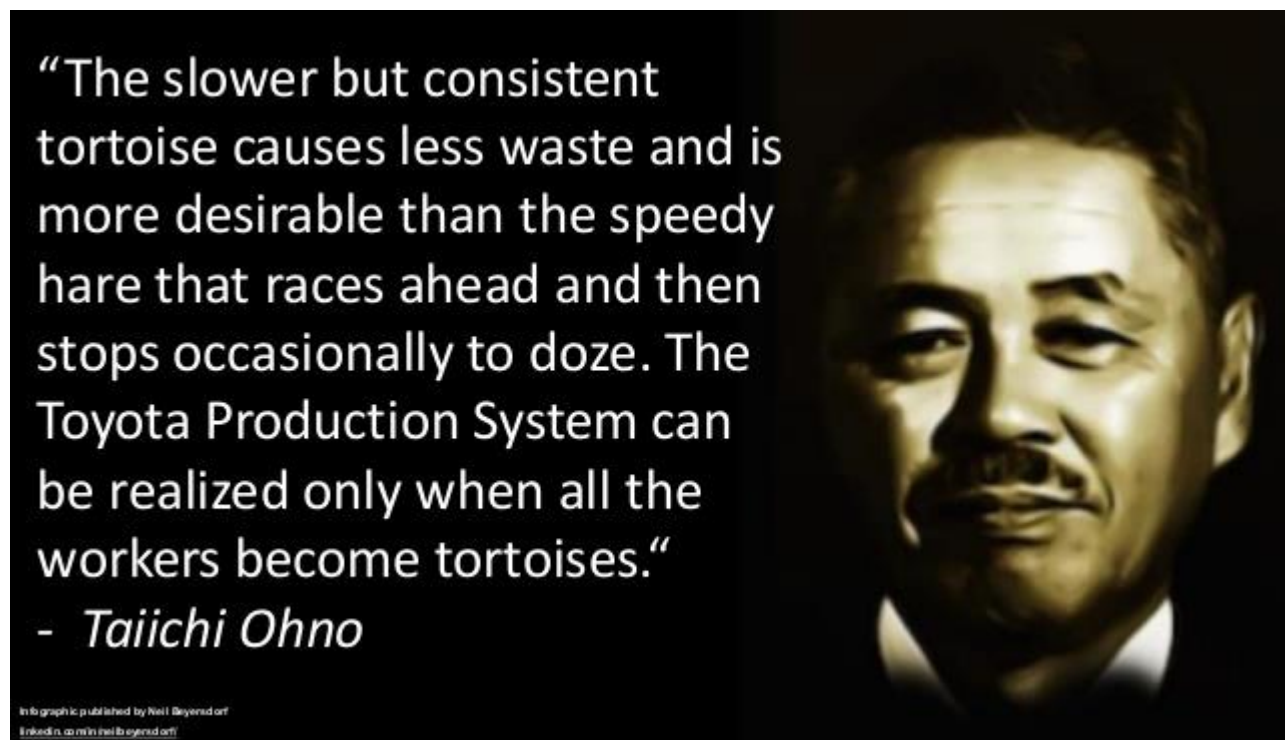
Source <https://www.newcrest.com/sustainability/our-sustainability-vision>

(Highlighted points mine)

I call into question the highlighted areas of the above ‘Our Stakeholders’ statement by Newcrest. Following the slump on the STSF in March 2018, many other aspects of community engagement have ‘slumped’ too. The reactive nature of engagement with the community is ongoing and evident.

Examples are; the Tailings Dust Management Report which began in April 2020 as a monthly report – PROACTIVELY initiated and requested by Community Members. The reactive nature of communication from CVO is consistent. At a community landholder meeting at John & Hilde Gerathy's – 'Errowanbang' property (54 on map) November 2019 with the then GM Peter Sharpe and other CVO Staff, it was unanimously requested for clearer, consistent and proactive communication specifically around tailings dam dust and many other issues and concerns. These are just two examples of reactive communication from a corporate neighbour.

Finally, a pearl of wisdom from Taiichi Ohno (1912 – 1990) a successful Japanese engineer and the founding father of the Toyota Production System (TPS)



Source <https://www.slideshare.net/optimaltransformation/a-collection-of-quotes-from-taiichi-ohno>

Newcrest Mining could certainly learn from the successes of these wise words.

Thank you for receiving my objections and considering my submission.

I declare I have not made any financial or other contributions to any political party in the past two years.

Dated 18 February 2021
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