

I would to add my objection the approval of the Mount Pleasant mine extension.

I would like to impressing upon the members of the committee that approval of any mine should be delayed until such time as the regulatory authorities are held to account for setting out guidelines that are so out of touch with community expectations that the mining industry is given free get out of jail free card. They have extraordinary disregard to any basis rights or living conditions to people in the local area for the good of the NSW government budget

I list the following for your review

- 1 The mine is asking for an extension until 2043. If this approval is granted you again allow the conditions of consent relating to limits on dust, noise, lights water etc. will be set in stone for the next 20 years. This is the only industry that is given this privilege. WHY?
- 2 All mines should be required every five years to change to best practice and amend their conditions of consent to those limits? This will not happen until we break the close association between the regulatory authority and the mines
- 3 The mining industry has been here for over 30 years and still we have no acceptable cumulative impact regulations for dust. I can show you how two monitors 150 apart from two different mines show two different reading one within approval limits the other 3 times accidence. The issue no mine takes any responsibility for the dust depending on the wind direction.
- 4 The NSW EPA states that fine particle emissions from diesel exhaust can be inhaled deep into the lungs and have been declared carcinogenic by the World Health Organization for research on cancer.

The 4 main pollutants from diesel engines are

Carbon monoxide  
Hydrocarbons  
Particulate matter  
Nitrogen oxides

A joint compliance audit undertaken in December 2010, with various government departments and the DP&E, STATED

‘Generally it is thought that fine particles below 2.5 microns may be a greater health risk than larger particles but both are health concerns. Infants and children, elderly people and people with existing respiratory conditions, heart disease or diabetes may be more susceptible to fine and course particles

Recent epidemiological research suggests that there is NO threshold at which health effects do not occur.

The health effects include: -

- 1 Toxic effects by absorption of the toxic material into the blood
- 2 Allergic or hypersensitivity effects
- 3 Bacterial and fungal infections
- 4 Fibrosis
- 5 Cancer
- 6 Irritation of mucous membranes
- 7 Increased respiratory symptoms, aggravation of asthma and premature death. The risks are highest for sensitive groups such as the elderly and children. Would we class this as a pandemic for the local community?

Still we don't require the mines to monitor pm2.5. Why don't we require each mine to monitor dust coming on to the mine site and what leaves the mine site in each direction, as a condition of consent both for PM2.5 and PM10

#### THE WATER TABLE

This mine will have more impact on the water table than Dartbrook mine. The Dartbrook mine underground workings where water seeps into the underground void, comes from Kingdom Ponds in Scone. Australia is the driest continents in the world and still we don't cherish our underground aquifers and allow their water to be syphoned into the mine workings and pumped out to ponds to evaporate

Again the only way to make the mines to monitor pollution going into this community and to stop the depletion of our water is not to approve any further mines or extensions until the above important items are addressed

John Bancroft  
Muswellbrook resident