



Your Ref: David Mooney  
Our Ref: KO:10/0165

9 Ogilvie Street (PO Box 127)  
DENMAN NSW 2328  
T: (02) 6547 2144  
F: (02) 6547 1021  
DX 7344 MUSWELLBROOK  
[www.denmanlegal.com.au](http://www.denmanlegal.com.au)

19 December 2012

Mr D Mooney  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

*By email: [david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au)*

Dear Mr Mooney

**RE: Anglo American Drayton South Coal Project (Drayton Mine), Application  
Number: 11 0062**

Mr Robert Halloran has instructed us to prepare this submission on his behalf.

We now lodge the attached submission on behalf of Mr Halloran.

We look forward to confirmation that this submission has been received.

Yours faithfully  
DENMAN LEGAL

Kathleen Oldman  
Principal  
e-mail: [koldman@denmanlegal.com.au](mailto:koldman@denmanlegal.com.au)



20<sup>th</sup> December 2012

The Director General  
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Objection to the Anglo American Drayton South Open Cut Mine Proposal**

I am writing as a concerned landholder who is a neighbour to the existing Drayton Mine, and close to Mount Arthur Mine and the proposed Drayton South extension. I object to the Drayton South open coal mine project. My reasons for objecting to this proposal are as follows:

#### ***Health Impacts on my family***

My property is located on Pamger Drive adjacent to land owned by Drayton Coal. We currently experience a lot of dust to the extent that dust visibly accumulates on surfaces both inside and outside. After these surfaces are cleaned, they are coated with dust again within twenty four hours. This level of dust is unacceptable. A mine extension will further increase the particulate pollution that we are exposed to.

Loretta, my wife, is very ill and I am her sole carer. She is in my full time care. Her health problems dictate that she must live in an air-conditioned room at all times. When she is exposed to the dust her condition worsens. I will not take her outside of the house because the high dust levels from adjoining mines will make her seriously ill. The dust is pervasive and adversely affects our quality of life.

We are currently subjected to consistent, regular and unacceptable noise from mining, coal processing and train movements. An extension will increase this noise significantly.

Water pollution from the neighbouring property operated by Drayton Coal has flowed onto my property on a number of occasions, once from a faulty septic system. The run off water that flows onto my land is sludgy, smelly and has silted up my dam. Cattle will now not drink from this dam. The dam has been rendered unusable.

The existing Drayton mine operators have not taken steps to ensure that existing dust and noise problems are reduced. The dust has reached hazardous levels. Drayton Coal is not compliant with guidelines and present mitigation methods are not working. The pollution we are subjected to is unreasonable intrusion into our lives. A mine extension will increase the pollution we are subjected to significantly, further affecting our quality of life.

#### ***Health Impacts on the region***

It is well known that poor air quality can affect human health. This mine will contribute significantly to particulate pollution in the region. Increased exposure to particulate pollution is associated with increased adverse health outcomes, even if the levels are below current guidelines.

The cumulative impacts of dust generated from mines have resulted in Muswellbrook Shire having the highest number of emergency hospital admissions for asthma and respiratory illness in the Hunter New England Health Region. This is detailed in the report NSW Department of Health (2010) Respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and cancer among residents in the Hunter New England Area Health Service report:

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/pdf/hne\\_respi\\_cardio\\_disease.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2010/pdf/hne_respi_cardio_disease.pdf)

***Cumulative Impacts.***

There is a lack of research into the cumulative and long term impacts of the effects of coal mining on human, animal and plant health. Until such research is completed, and changes to coal mining practice made to minimise health effects, coal mining expansion and new mines plans should be suspended.

Given Drayton Coal's current poor efforts at mitigating pollution I have no confidence that their efforts to mitigate further pollution would be successful. The mine expansion should not be approved.

Robert Halloran