

Carl Dumbleton  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
Major Projects Assessment  
Mining and Industry Projects  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

24th March 2013

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10\_1078**

**The Village of Cullen Bullen is already being negatively impacted by nearby Open-cut Mining activity.**

**I object to the Coalpac Consolidation Proposal entirely.**

**I object for these reasons:**

**I am writing to state my objection to the latest Coalpac review. I have written before (26<sup>th</sup> April 2012) and have signed a petition. I also confess to a feeling of vindication when the first rejection was announced.**

**However, I cannot emphasize enough; the detrimental impact on our village of Cullen Bullen ought this mine to be allowed to continue with its “alleged amendments”.**

**My objections remain VERY Cleary:**

- **DUST**
- **BLASTING**
- **NOISE**
- **ROAD TRANSPORT**
- **IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE/HEALTH ISSUES**
- **MINING FAR TOO CLOSE TO OUR VILLAGE/HOMES**
- **ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRIDATION**

**For the past few weeks, there has been a considerable change in noise levels, dust and our well-being has been restored. Simply put – the mine has been virtually idle waiting on the final decision.**

**Lately though, recent news reports showing our Mayor and local businesses demanding jobs for locals has been distressing. I do wish people would not be sheep and follow that old chestnut. Having worked in recruitment for many years and being the Employment Officer at the local C.E.S – I was often asked to recruit people for the existing mines in the local area. It became apparent that when suitable people were not available in the local area many were imported from other mines in other States in preference to employing locals without expertise or qualifications. It has already been shown that only 3% of the current jobs were filled by local residents. (I refer to Coalpac’s own figures)**

People tend to look after their own needs. Having lived amongst the people of Lithgow for many years I discovered there is an ethos in the town that is very parochial. Lithgow is only 20 minutes by car from our Village of Cullen Bullen. We have a population of fewer than 300 residents. Businesses state they need the custom from the mine – Have they forgotten there are FOUR OTHER MINES IN THE AREA. If they read papers and listened to the news they might understand that MINING RESOURCES are on the decline – In my opinion these residents – particularly The Mayor have limited foresight and no comprehension of the future concerns and damage to the environment Open Cut Mining will have on this area.

Are these people so greedy – that maybe – for SHORT TERM GAIN ( it is common knowledge that Coalpac has spread “incentives” to businesses and some residents to curry favour!) they are forgetting the LONG TERM Health issues this open cut mine will bring. Obviously they have never travelled to The Hunter Region to see the havoc and vicious destruction of localities. I can’t state strongly enough how – if this operation was to go ahead – I feel in time people who are for it now would be screaming WHY WAS’NT SOMETHING DONE TO STOP THEM.

In my opinion, even with the alleged promises, assurances, amendments or changes proposed – having Coalpac continue mining in this vicinity will only have long term detrimental impact on our quality of life and therefore become a burden on our Health Services.

However, ought this review to be sanctioned – if there is to be a compromise – my commonsense suggestion would be – WHY CAN’T THEY MINE UNDERGROUND!

I urge you to consider all our grievances against Open Cut Mining in this area. If you have travelled through our little village – next time drive slowly and see we live here because of its simplicity and slow pace of life. I am currently feeling very vulnerable and abandoned by decision makers we have entrusted on our behalf. I am certain they would not like to see an Open Cut Mine in their backyard but they are willing to abandon us to feather their own nests! I am not a Greenie or an Activist – I just strongly oppose this mine not only for the annihilation of the environment and all the health issues it will cause, but the way in which the mine treats people with contempt. I am sure statistics could show that our Village has quite a few elderly residents whom I know, have, like me signed petitions and have submitted submissions against the mine. Some of them are so disillusioned they feel the outcome is “inevitable – who can stop a mine” – they are tired of fighting. It is my opinion the mine relies on this type of intimidation. Also, are we to be ignored because we are such a small community? I speak for myself when I say – I will not be intimidated or unheard. Therefore I am writing this letter to voice my own opinion and objections. Please see reason when you make your decision, to restore my faith and trust in the belief that officials put Health issues before short term monetary gains.

Regards

Lorraine Bunyon

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