



Photo taken of HVO Blast 17th January, 2018.

Hunter Valley Operations

South Modification 5

Planning Assessment Commission Meeting, 6th February 2018

We as concerned landowners and residents from the Jerry's Plains area would like to voice our objection to Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) South Modification 5 Project.

We are local farmers, not anti-coal mining activists. We believe this country needs mining, however it should not be allowed to destroy and impact on high quality agricultural land, rural villages and our most precious resource of all, our water, without water this country will be doomed.

The visual impact, noise and dust that we already experience now is unbelievable. And now they want to increase the height of the overburden so we get more dust, noise and more rocky moonscape mountains to look at.

HVO along with the other mining operations in this area, are always saying they always work within their conditions of approval, however we believe this to be totally incorrect.

We as locals are seeing the dust and noise pollution intensifying in recent times.

One recent event was on Wednesday 17th January, 2018 at approximately 1pm, HVO let off a blast that was reported in the local Singleton Argus newspaper as a "Dusting of Jerry's Plains". HVO had no regard for the health and wellbeing of the residents of Jerry's Plains and the surrounding districts. From early morning on this day the wind was a prevailing strong easterly, this naturally would bring any dust and gasses from a blast at HVO straight in the direction of Jerry's Plains and surrounding area. We had not heard this blast go off as we were travelling from our property in Jerry's Plains to our home property at Apple Tree Flat, four kilometres from Jerry's Plains. Just after arriving home we had a phone call from a neighbour, one and a half kilometres away, to tell us that we had a massive fire coming over the mountain at the back of our property.

This was a very frightening call when you think about the devastating fires that this country has experience in recent times. After a few panicky moments and a phone call to Jerry's Plains to get a better idea where the fire was, we were told that it's not a fire and that it's one of the biggest blasts this person had seen. We have included a photo of this blast along with a photo taken at Apple tree Flat, many kilometres from where this blast took place. The dust and fumes than continued along further towards Coolmore Horse Stud and the Doyles Creek area. We were told by a person traveling on the Golden Highway towards Jerry's Plains that he believed that he would be blocked by a massive fire, until he realized that it was JUST a blast, he also commented on seeing the photo that they did not depict the

true scale of what he saw. We were relieved to find out that there wasn't a massive fire coming towards us; however it's almost as devastating to know that our health and the health of our animals are continually been put at risk by these mines.

You may think that this is all irrelevant, however if this Modification 5 gets approved, to increase the size of their overburden dump, highwall and final voids, the cumulative impacts of dust, noise and pollution will not be irrelevant to this community.

HVO are cleaning out water tanks in the village of Jerry's Plains, we believe this to be an admission of guilt, wouldn't you! However there is no dust leaving their mine sites and polluting Jerry's Plains according to the mining companies, this just proves that there is dust.

Very few people in Jerry's Plains will speak out about the mines publically because they have family connections to the mining operations in the area. Others in Jerry's Plains are quite happy to accept donations from mining companies, like the one HVO donated to the Jerry's Plains Hall committee for a Christmas Party. Comments from locals about these donations are "we might as well get what we can from them "(mining companies).

These donations DO NOT make all of these pollutions go away.

The recent results from the Jerry's Plains dust monitors are showing the true impacts to our health – they are continually registering high excessive levels.

These cumulative impacts on the Jerry's Plains community are already too great,

Where is the topsoil going to come from for rehabilitation – we all know the majority of the topsoil has already ended up on the bottom of the overburden piles.

With an increase in extraction rates and a final void of 523 ha there will be adverse impacts on groundwater which is already depleting caused by the depth of the holes. Any discharges into the Hunter River System will cause more pollution for the already struggling river System. The cumulative impacts are too great with all of the mines in this area.

We believe that the future of the historic village of Jerry's Plains and surrounding agricultural area must be protected from the pollutions of dust and noise that will be greatly increased by this modification. We have sat back and listened to all mining companies telling us that they are doing things better, better for the environment, less noise, less dust, less pollution of our river systems and underground aquifers. WHY is it that the dust, the noise, and everything that is adversely affected by mining is getting a whole lot worse and not better? It is impossible to control the dust and air pollution, owing to the grand scale of mining and the massive amount of disturbance to this area in the Hunter Valley.

The Hunter Valley is one of the finest agricultural valleys in Australia

The mines destroy the land forever.

We keep hearing the same old story we must protect the miners jobs. We never hear about the jobs that have been lost in the area to mining. This area was a rural farming community

including many dairies, cattle and sheep properties where there were many, many families living and surviving quite well on the land and employing other families. Just in Muswellbrook and Singleton alone there were six agriculture businesses selling tractors, now these two towns have none.

We were told by a very well respected Singleton business recently, that their business is really struggling, because there is not many farmers left in the area and that is where the majority of their business came from.

The combined impact on the Hunter River and the aquifers are at risk, our water is too precious it must be preserved for our future generations, along with our very fertile land.

We respectfully ask that you register our objection to this proposal and seriously consider our objections when assessing the appropriateness of this HVO South Modification 5.

Ian & Robyn Moore.

Jerry's Plains.

Article from Singleton Argus 24th January, 2018

Dusting of Jerrys Plains

BY LOUISE NICHOLS

LOCAL residents from Jerrys Plains and surrounds reported a mine blast plume travelling over the village and heading towards Doyles Creek just after 1:00pm on Wednesday, January 17.

The dust and odour from the plume greatly concerned the residents as it headed up the Valley towards Doyles Creek and in the process passed over one of the world's leading thorough-

bred studs Coolmore.

Locals believe the blast came from Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations (HVO) - who are currently seeking approval to increase annual production from the open cut mine and in the process increase the size of their overburden dump, highwall and final void.

Yancoal have confirmed they did conduct a blast on Wednesday afternoon at HVO but at this stage they cannot confirm whether

that blast's plume left the mine site.

NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) said they have received two complaints from the public regarding the mine blast at Yancoal's Hunter Valley Operations open cut mine on the day of the incident.

The EPA is investigating the incident and is in the process of reviewing a report on the blast provided to them by HVO.

Yancoal purchased HVO

and the neighbouring Mount Thorley Warkworth open cut deal worth and estimated \$3.5 billion.

Not long after finalising that deal Yancoal and Glencore announced a \$US1.1 billion deal, that is still to be formally signed-off, where- by Glencore gained a 49 per cent interest in HVO and will manage the operations of the mine from its adjoining Ravensworth complex.

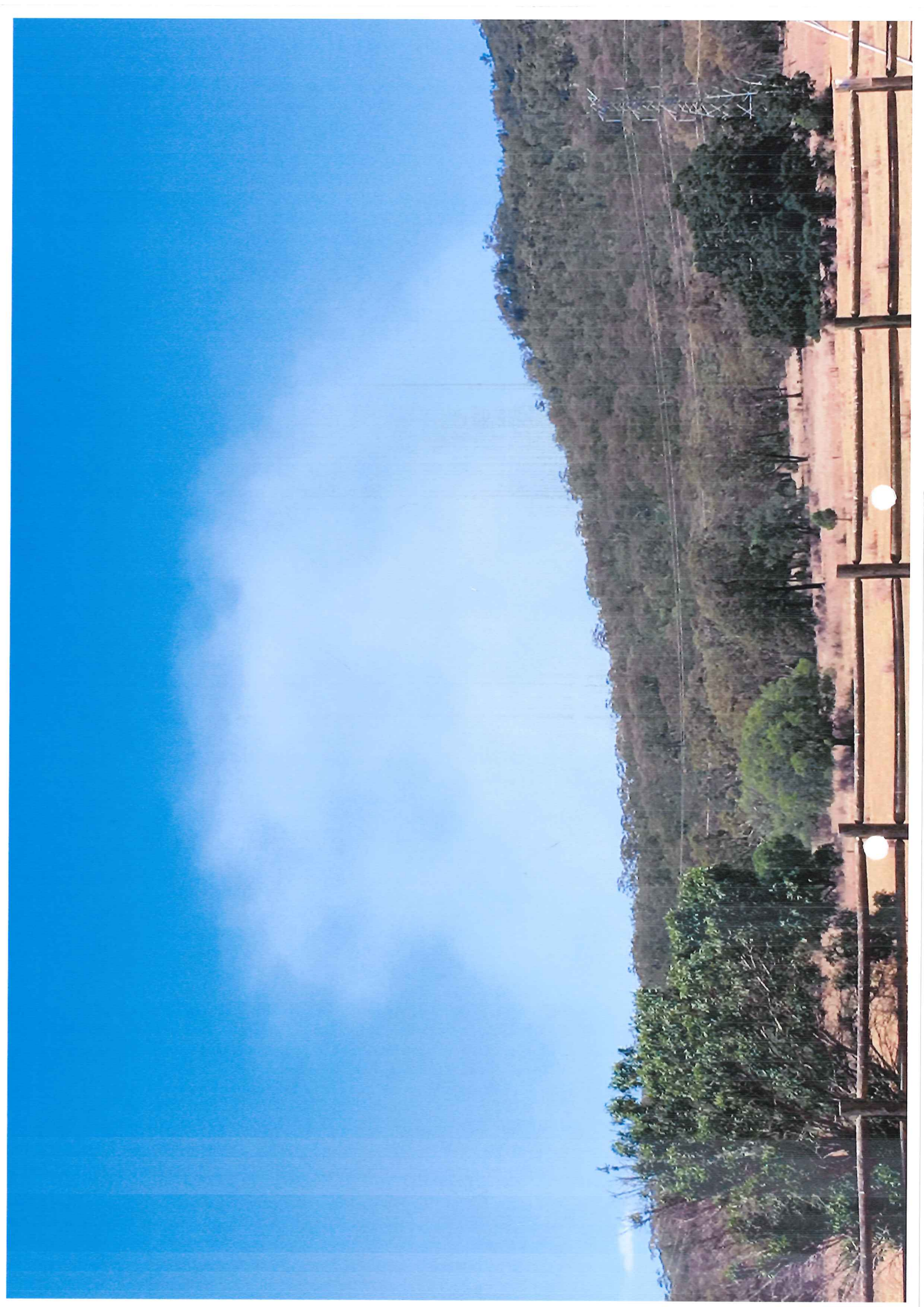
The Department of Plan-

ning and Environment has recommended the HVO Modification 5 be approved and it has been referred to the Planning and Assessment Commission (PAC).

PAC will hold a public meeting at Singleton's Civic Centre on Tuesday, February 6 starting at 3:30pm.

Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting must register to speak before 1 pm on February 2, by: Phoning (02) 9383 2112 or Emailing pac@pac.nsw.gov.au.

Photo taken at Apple Tree Flat on 17th January 2018
of the HVO Blast, that was mistaken as a fire
many kilometres away.



Mine blast plume travels over Jerrys Plains and surr



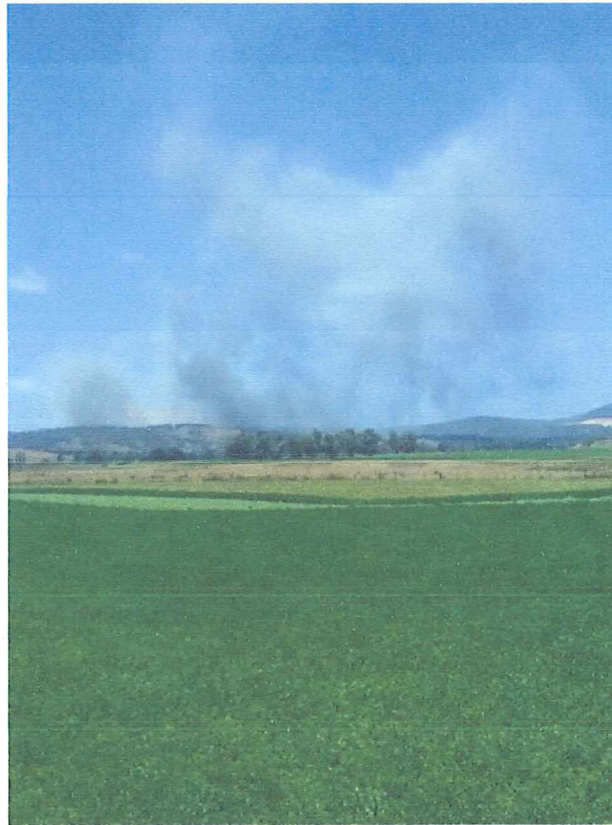
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 Plume heading towards Jerrys Plains. (Photo supplied)

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events should not take place in the first instant and if they do the fines should be substantial.

So substantial, may we suggest, that no open cut mining company could afford to let such an event happen on their site.

Government agencies are spruiking about how they will better monitor and police mine rehabilitation - well that is long overdue and when will it actually occur?

As we keep seeing mine modifications as the preferred option for mine expansions will the government agencies insist that these plans also include the latest rehab rules.

Some of these modification applications are almost equivalent to new mines and therefore should be subject to the latest environmental conditions.

WEB WORDS

JERRYS PLAINS COPS A BLAST PLUME
Seen this from singleton, so bad I thought it was a bush fire

Graeme Bryan

Good luck with any honesty from either party

Peter Burns

Could be seen from Singleton!

Kristy Roughan

As if the EPA will do anything.

Helen Cousin

EPA will slap then in the wrist

Gail Hunter

Really.

That's not new news.

This happens every time a mine blasts and will continue to do so.

It is physically impossible to blow up huge piles of rock and dirt and not create a dust cloud no matter how much water is dumped on it or which direction the wind blows.

Just happened to be going in a different direction this time.

Nothing will change no matter how much they say will do.

Kim Brossmann Luck

Yan Coal not off to a good start

Joe Hardy

