

To whom it may concern,

I was employed at Edinglassie Stud, Denman Road, Muswellbrook from November 2012 until June 2013. During this time I also lived on the farm, which was situated between two of the Hunter Valleys major open cut coal mines.

While living and working at Edinglassie I observed large earthquake like rumbling and shaking of not only the house I lived in but also the ground I stood on whilst working. Working with thoroughbred horses can be a very hazardous job, adding big, sudden and scary noises to these sometimes skittish animals dramatically increases the chance of a horse in a lot of cases being worth upwards of 6 figures, hurting itself or more importantly the hurting the horse handler.

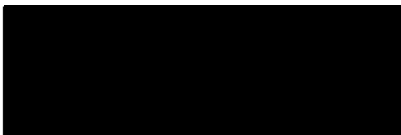
I also noticed that after the blasting there was a very strong smell of sulphur and a huge cloud of dust that on occasion would last for hours. The dust was definitely worse after blasting but it was always a problem. For example, every morning I would get in my car during winter and I would put the windscreen wipers on to clear the dew. I would be left worse off than before with the thick layer of black sludge that would form due to the coal dust mixed with the dew.

The dust was also very evident throughout the house we lived in. The floor had to be swept daily and the benches wiped down due to the layer of black dust that would form. This was with the windows shut constantly. This was a large part of why we moved as this cannot be healthy for you to be constantly breathing in.

There were a lot of nights where the noise coming from the heavy machinery would keep me awake for most of the night and the huge lights flooding the house were also a pain.

I do not feel that anyone should have to live or work in these conditions and we have since moved with the mines being a major contributor to this fact.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Brent Harris