

12 February 2014

Planning Assessment Commission

Darren & Clare Fisher

My husband and I will be attending the public hearing on 19 February 2014, however as we are not certain if we will be given the opportunity to voice our concerns we have decided to put our concerns in writing.

Currently (even before the mine comes closer to the town of Stratford.)

- The noise from mining machinery can be heard from our house, we hear the tracking of machines, reversing beepers, haulage trucks running up and down the internal roads.
- When blasting is undertaken our house rattles and we can see the dust cloud out over our back paddock.
- We do not have access to town water so we rely on run off from our roof to fill our tanks for drinking water. With two young children we are extremely concerned our water supply may be contaminated. Isn't a water supply free of contaminants a basic human right. I am sure the community, school and surrounding areas feel the same.
- Concerned about rumours within the community about what is being referred to "Hush Money" being paid to some land holders to possibly stop ongoing complaints.
- The mine itself undertakes all air quality measurements and wind direction models. Are they doing the right thing?

We are not unreasonable and understand that the mine provides work for people. However we have been subjected to this once only to be a boutique mine for a long time now. I would like to see an exclusion zone around the town to minimize noise, dust and give the people of the Stratford community some sense that a multi national company is not just going to come in take what they want with little regard for small community health and financial well being (property prices). I don't understand how there can be rules for one town or community but not another excluding a mine from coming within a stipulated distance, even with this new application these minimum distances don't apply to Stratford.

If the mine wants to come closer to the town it should be made to acquire impacted properties. Currently we rely on the company itself to monitor dust and water quality. Is

this good enough? Who is doing quality control or making sure they are doing the right thing? Is the mine poisoning us?

It's simple we have tolerated the mine for a long time now. It is well and truly close enough. If the coal seem is worth chasing towards the town of Stratford then the mine should acquire or come to an agreement with any property owners, required to maintain a "safe buffer zone" around the township. This buffer zone should equal buffer zones given to other townships and size of the town should not be relevant. Like other Australians we have paid hard earned money for our piece of the great Australian dream, why should we be subjected to possible 24hr noise, dust and a landscape that resembles the moon. We live in Australia not a third world country. We just want common sense to prevail and not greed. I am writing this letter to object to the extension of the Stratford mine, not for my benefit but for the well being of my children. I hope they get to inherit a place that's worth living in, not just a heap of great big holes once the mine has packed up and left. Why should Stratford be disadvantaged?

Thank you
Darren & Clare Fisher