

Mine name is Greg Banks and I live in [REDACTED] am speaking on behalf of my son who cannot make it here today

Firstly I cannot believe that we're here again in front of the PAC are arguing for and against this mine expansion when the land and environment court and also the supreme court has rejected this scheme.

In addition the government has nullified the deed of agreement which was supposed to be carried out by the council rezone the land known as non disturbance area one including Saddle Ridge which gave protection not only to some of the endangered ecological communities but importantly the township of Bulga. The dirty tricks by this government and in particular minister Hazzard where this deed has been nullified is unacceptable. This is cheating the community out of what should have been a protective covenant.

Not only that deed that chief judge of the land and environment court overturned the approval but three of the most senior judges in the supreme court agreed with him. And yet here today we are back again arguing the merits of this case. The government is expecting you to do this in two days in front of the community and the proponents whereas the judge took 14 days and listened to all the experts and made his judgement from there.

Air pollution in this area is concentrated because of the numerous mines That's around Bulga. This part of the hunter valley should not have any additional mines as the cumulative effect of the dust is unacceptable. The Bulga open cut mine next door has been approved and this will continue for another 20 years. We cannot have another 20 years of the Warkworth and Mt. Thorley mines operating which as to this cocktail of dust and diesel fumes. How much more can this community there. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December I was driving home from town. I encounter ~~like share our and this~~ <sup>a like rain shower of rain</sup> was not ~~the judge~~ <sup>Just</sup> rain but it was liquid dust. My windscreen was covered in dirty rain.

Today you are listening to all the experts who are with the proponent to which the mine to expand and you will be listening to the community and their experts who want to continue their lifestyle and not be impacted by a massive open cut mine.

With all these opposing and conflicting opinions commissioners this is your task to act as judge and jury and I trust will come up with a rejection of the proposal.