

From: [REDACTED]
To: pac.pac
Subject: Bulga endangered!
Date: Monday, 7 September 2015 7:54:49 PM

Attention: Clay Preshaw

To the Commission

My husband Dimitrious Vikas and I, Joy Vikas, live on the surrounds of the village of Bulga, our address is [REDACTED].

We have resided at this address for over 33 years. When we purchased the 12.5 hectares we were assured that the mines would have no impact upon our lives. Our decision to live and raise our children in this area was to create a sustainable life style as well as establishing a small vineyard where we could grow Muscat table grapes. This we succeeded in doing however we are distressed that our choice is becoming unachievable due to the impact of the surrounding and expanding mines.

Over the past years we have noted an **increase in the level of noise, dust emissions** and **visual pollution** with the huge deposits of spoil dumps.

As we are now grandparents we are concerned that the water our children and grandchildren drink while visiting is not suitable for consumption so we now purchase water whenever they are visiting.

This is totally unacceptable and it is our right as citizens of Australia to be able to have access to fresh water. We are not a third world country where fresh drinking water can be a problem.

In summer time when we sleep with the windows open we are disturbed by the constant droning noise of the mines. As we are getting older this is detrimental to the health and well being of my husband and myself. We are becoming stressed with the lack of sleep, compounded by our concern that we might never be able to sell our home, as who would want to purchase it. We might never be able to sell at a price of the market value. This is our life asset that we might never be able to sell.

The mines have taken away our life style and our health.

We sell our table grapes to the public every February and while it is only a small business it adds to the tourism industry in the region.

It is a part of Hunter Tourism.

People enjoy visiting our small farm from many places around Australia as well as overseas visitors. They comment on how beautiful it is where we live and then followed by the statement "what a pity it is spoilt by the ugly wall of spoil from the mines". They also invariably comment on the ugly void that is visible as they travel along the Putty Road passed the Mt Thorley and The Warkworth Mines.

The pollution has increased to an unacceptable level.

The Cockfighter Creek that runs through the village of Bulga was once a place where our children could swim and play in summer.

Currently, under no circumstances would I allow my grandchildren the same opportunity as it is polluted and therefore unsafe. No longer can the enjoyment of

fishing by both young and old be undertaken . Is this what we in Australia are letting our country become?

While the coal mine expounds its apparent wonderful donations to the people of Singleton it is of little benefit to the health and well being of the people of the region if they are too sick to enjoy everyday living. Where is the economics if the government has to spend money on health issues that could have been avoided. These monies are tokens, they are used to buy the people into believing that mining is wonderful.

What will become of this area when the agricultural land is taken away and we are left with a huge void , a catchment area for contaminated water? What will the Hunter river look like then?

We are totally opposed to any expansion of the Warkworth and Mt Thorley mines. The world is moving away from mining for fossil fuels. We need to learn how to be smarter in caring for our world and its future. Teach the young that we have one planet, one world and one life time. Teach them new skills away from the mining mentality that surrounds Singleton.

Thank you

Yours Sincerely

Joy and Jim Vikas

Sent from Windows Mail