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To Commissioners,

I stand here today as a resident of Williamstown, who owns the property [REDACTED] Cabbage Tree Road, right next door to the proposed site. I'm in disbelief that given everything that has gone on within the area, that we are gathering in this room today. This project along with its dodgy history should have been shelved a long long time ago.

The history of this proposal and what our community has endured for the last three years is well documented, I'm sure in your respected and educated roles as commissioners, that I don't need to reiterate the history. The history of the area reads more like a drama script...

Today this is my personal submission, on behalf of my family, The Gorfines.

To be totally honest I barely had the strength to write this submission, another submission, yet another meeting, more time and energy spent away from my family, will it make a difference? I don't know, but I have to at least try. When will the Government and Beaurcrats finally start to listen to their people, fingers crossed, it might happen this time around.

The bad news for our community, the place we call home on Cabbage Tree Road, just never ends, toxic contamination, don't eat your veges, you can't eat you eggs, don't use the bore water, the properties are devalued, the banks view your largest asset as worthless, a cancer cluster, a fear of future health risks, recent bush fires, and now unbelievably, the sand mine is back on the agenda as the process progresses. In the words of one neighbour, this news has broken me... and I don't think they are alone with their thoughts.

It seems to be that the interests of a few people and the importance of lining their pockets are put well and truly above that of the people and families of Cabbage Tree Road. I hope the PAC proves us wrong and makes the correct ethical and moral decision on this project.

Three years ago on February 17, we had a knock on the door by two men with no identification or business cards. They had called in to advise that a sand mine operation would be going to be set up next door to us. Both my husband and I were in shock and upset by this information. Prior to moving into this property, we had done out due diligence. We were advised that the bush surrounding our property was conservation land, preferred koala habitat and wouldn't be touched.

Subsequently, Williamtown and Surrounds Residents Action Group Inc. was founded by myself, my husband Cain and our neighbours Brian and Julie Curry. For three long years we have fought, fought for what is right, fought to give our children and the community a safe environment and quality of life they deserve. Throughout the whole process, we hadn't wanted to look back and think that we could have done more, as a group, we didn't want any regrets. At times energy waned and stress levels increased, there were times that our hands were thrown in the air or I'd want to curl up into a ball. I look back and I know that we can definitely say we did everything we could up until this point.

Eight and a half years ago we moved into our home, from the age of 14, I worked hard to have my horses, it was my dream to own acreage, to have my horses live with me and then to raise a family with Cain, it was to be our forever home. As a child I moved around a lot and went to eight different schools. When you become a parent, you reflect on your childhood and learn what are the non-negotiables when it comes to your own children, for Cain and I, it was imperative to provide a lifelong safe home for our family. Our children are now 11, going on 7 and almost 4 and we now wonder what our future holds and what will be of our family home...

At the moment angry and upset is an understatement, we are in an unprecedented time with the toxic PFAS contamination. I implore you to put yourselves in the shoes of the residents, how would you feel knowing your house is worth nothing, how would you feel to have your future striped away from you? How would you feel to have a shadow of doubt over your health every single day? Regularly we ask ourselves have we lived here too long? What damage have

we already caused to ourselves and our children? It's devastating and worst of all, we can't move, we can't escape. Our home is worthless, where do we go, how do we start again and how do we have the finances to do it. Cruelly on top of this uncertainly you want to put in a sand mine, within a contaminated toxic red zone, within a water dependant ecosystem with valuable threatened species, including the koala and newly discovered Mahoney toadlet, all on a busy road surrounded by homes and families.

These aren't just flippant statements or questions, this is reality and the threat if approved of this proposal is well documented. The commission must put people before profits and knock back the proposal or at the very least put it on hold for three years until there is a greater understanding of the fall out of the contamination, at a when residents can move away if they need to and to actually have a choice about their futures, because at the moment, we are stuck, there is no way out and we have no choice.

There is so much more I could say, so many more in depth details to go through, I could highlight individuals from the community suffering and much much more, but to put it simply this is the submission of Rhianna Sarah Gorfine, who has put blood, sweat and tears into this campaign and the community to protect the right we have to enjoy our properties and to live happily and safely within our homes. In closing, Peter, Dianne and Peter it's simple, we need you to put the people of this shattered community first, the people of Williamtown have suffered enough, and most importantly on behalf of my family, my children Jackson, Bronte and Ryan, please put an end to this inappropriate proposal or at the very least put it on hold for three years.....