

To: Carolyn McNally
Cc: Steve O'Donoghue
Subject: Boggabri Coal Modification

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to you to express my strongest objections to the proposed modification application number **09 0182 Mod 7** by Boggabri Coal.

I oppose the suggestions by both Boggabri Coal and the NSW Department of Planning that this application relates to "Minor" or "Administrative" amendments and believe that these modifications can only be assessed following community consultation and the normal exhibition process. I do not consider that five proposed amendments to the current approval is minor. The proposal lacks any kind of detail and leaves way too much discretion in the hands of Boggabri Coal. The fast track approval process, which does not include a proper exhibition process lacks transparency and is not acceptable.

Any modification proposal by Boggabri Coal must include the proper description and assessment of the modification in the context of cumulative impacts of the Tarrawonga, Maules Creek and Boggabri Coal mines. Due to the lack of detail available, there is no way that cumulative impacts could be assessed, approved, rejected or mitigated by the community or the Department of Planning.

Based on the limited information that is available regarding this request, outstanding questions include:

- Hauling coal by road: How many trucks per day? Which roads? How does this add to the existing impact of coal haulage in the area?
- The Goonbri Road is a mess – I have driven through standing floodwater on this road that appears to be directed during rain events due to the massive piles of overburden right near the road from the Tarrawonga Mine. There appears to be no oversight or community consideration given to the local amenity or environment with this mine. Given the fact that this modification proposes to change the project boundaries between Tarrawonga and Boggabri Coal, the section of this modification relating to Tarrawonga should be rejected immediately due to the lack of an environmental representative on the Tarrawonga Community Consultative Committee
- Where will the proposed new drilling and exploration occur? How much? How deep? How will this affect local hydrology? Will there be additional clearing of the Leard State Forest? If so, what about the offsets? Will Boggabri Coal buy farmland and plant random trees, depopulate the local community some more, and call these offsets? Well?
- Why is it that this modification seeks to reduce the transparency on the location and purchase of offsets? The original approval was given requiring transparency for offsets. How does the community benefit by the Department of Planning allowing Boggabri Coal to delay and obfuscate their offset requirements?

This is the 7th modification that Boggabri Coal has requested. How can residents consider that the regulations and requirements of a mining approval are genuine, if the miners just keep going back to the

Department of Planning seeking incremental modifications to the bits of the original approval that they don't like? The ongoing modifications to the original approval requirements makes a mockery of the approval process and is having a huge impact on the lives of our family and many other families in the district.

I ask you as the Secretary of the Department of Planning to put the community first and ensure that Boggabri Coal go through a full public exhibition and approval process for these serious modifications that will have an ongoing impact on the community.

Yours sincerely,

