



15 May 2019

Mr Ronald and Anna Shead



Dear Mr and Mrs Shead,

Re: Correspondence between Hume Coal and Ronald and Anna Shead

This letter is in relation to claims made in the submission made by Mrs Anna Shead at the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) Public Hearing held for the Hume Coal and Berrima Rail projects on 26 and 27 February 2019.

The below excerpt has been taken from the transcript of the public hearing, on Tuesday 26 February 2019:

MS A. SHEAD: "Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Anna Shead and I live at Sutton Forest, where we have 100 acres and my husband Ron and I –sorry. Okay. Thank you very much. I'm speaking against the project. My husband Ron and I own a 100 acre property off [REDACTED] in Sutton Forest, which we purchased in 1989. We run Black Angus cattle for the meat market and have done this successfully for 30 years, consistently presenting the highest-quality animals for the sale at the Moss Vale saleyards. We attended a meeting at Moss Vale, where Hume Coal presented maps and information about the proposed coal mine. We were devastated to discover that our home and farm were to be directly above the starting point of the underground workings and our bore would be the first to be affected by the underground workings.

Of interest, Hume Coal has never approached us at all about the fact that their main underground roads will be directly under our main dwelling. This could damage the house by vibrations and cause cracking. In 2015 we received a letter from Hume Coal stating that should we lose our bore water due to workings of the mine, Hume Coal will make good our water supply. How this was to be done is rather a mystery, as it was never explained. And we have always been very concerned that this is just an empty promise. We rely on our bore water for the requirements of our cattle, especially during the hot summer months, when the dams and Wells Creek traditionally dry up. Without our bore, we cannot water stocks through the hot months or even the cooler months during the periods of drought.

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Surely, the present drought has brought home the absolute necessity for farmers to have access to an uninterrupted water supply. The possibility that the coal mine would be approved is a heavy black cloud over our future and has caused a great deal of ongoing stress in our lives. Instead of leaving our children a beautiful and productive property, without a bore water supply it would be a desolate area of dead trees and gardens and would be unable to carry stock of any kind. We were therefore greatly relieved when the DPA found the project to be against the public interest, and we certainly urge the IPC to endorse that view. Our beautiful Southern Highlands should not be spoilt by the environmental impacts of a coal mine, like so many other areas already are. Thank you for an opportunity to present our case. Thank you.

MR GATES: Just before you go---

MR: Excuse me.

MR GATES: Just a quick question. Can you tell us how deep your bore is, if you know?

MS SHEAD: No, I don't.

MR GATES: All right. And has Hume Coal said to you how they might mitigate the damage to your bore? Would they drill you a new bore or a deeper bore or pay you money because of increased---

MS SHEAD: No. Just they would make good.

MR GATES: But you don't know any details.

MS SHEAD: No.

MR GATES: Thank you.

PROF FELL: Thank you very much.

MR FREE: Thank you, Ms Shead. Ross Parker is our next speaker."

We would like to point out that, to date, Hume Coal has made many attempts and efforts to consult and work with the both of you.

The following describes what consultation has been undertaken:

- 14 October 2011: Letter sent to Anna and Ronald Shead introducing the Community Liaison Manager and inviting them to an upcoming open day.
- 16 January 2012: Letter and community survey sent to Anna and Ronald Shead.

- 23 March 2012: Letter sent to Anna and Ronald Shead regarding Hume Coal's proposed exploration program, sent via registered post. Delivered on 27 March 2012.
- 24 March 2012: Hume Coal Community Liaison Officer (CLO) spoke to Ronald Shead at the Hume Coal Sutton Forest Open Day.
- 29 January 2014: Phone call between Hume Coal Community Liaison Officer and Anna Shead to discuss land access. Anna directed CLO to call Ronald Shead. CLO spoke to Ronald. Land access refused.
- 31 January 2014: Section 142 letter sent to Anna and Ronald Shead via registered post. Delivered on 5 February 2014.
- 11 February 2014: CLO followed up the letter with a phone call to Ronald Shead, asking if he or his wife, Anna, would be attending a meeting at the Hume Coal office following the 142 letter that was sent and received. Ronald declined the meeting and informed Kirsty that he would be sending a letter next week with a request to meet.
- 24 February 2014: Hume Coal received a letter from Ronald Shead in response to the section 142 letter requesting to a meeting at a mutually agreed date and a neutral venue sometime between Monday 17 March and Thursday 27 March 2014.
- 19 March 2014: Hume Coal CLO phoned Ronald Shead to discuss arranging an informal meeting with the Community Liaison team. Ronald was initially only wanting to meet with the top management. The CLO explained that initially it would be nice to sit down informally. Ronald said he would flag it with his family and would contact the CLO back on their direct line.
- 20 March 2014: Ronald Shead visited the Hume Coal Main Office to meet with the CLO and arrange a time/place to meet the following week, with the CLO team.
- 25 March 2014: Meeting held with Anna and Ronald Shead and the Hume Coal CLO team at a local café in Moss Vale. The meeting was amicable and provided an opportunity to discuss the project and answer many questions they had – including groundwater and the drop in property values were of highest concern for Ronald and Anna. A list of questions were given to the CLO team by Ron and Anna at the end of the meeting and the team were asked if they were able to respond in writing to these questions before the next meeting, (*see questions document attached*).
- 5 May 2014: Letter sent to Ronald and Anna Shead in response to the questions received at the last meeting on the 25 March, (*see response attached*).
- 1 September 2014: Hume Coal send a letter to Ronald and Anna Shead requesting access to their property to perform soil sampling as part of the environmental assessment process since their property falls into the A349 lease area.
- 11 September 2014: Phone call between Hume Coal CLO and Ronald Shead regarding the soil sampling request letter. Ronald said he had just returned home from hospital and would contact Hume Coal when he was more mobile.

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- 8 July 2015: Letters sent to all landholders located within the proposed project area, including Ronald and Anna Shead. Letters were also sent to landholders adjacent to the proposed project area and near the rail project, (see copy of letter attached).

As mentioned in the excerpt of the IPC Public Hearing transcript;

Anna Shead says, "We attended a meeting at Moss Vale, where Hume Coal presented maps and information about the proposed coal mine. We were devastated to discover that our home and farm were to be directly above the starting point of the underground workings and our bore would be the first to be affected by the underground workings."

However, goes on to say:

"Of interest, Hume Coal has never approached us at all about the fact that their main underground roads will be directly under our main dwelling. This could damage the house by vibrations and cause cracking. In 2015 we received a letter from Hume Coal stating that should we lose our bore water due to workings of the mine, Hume Coal will make good our water supply. How this was to be done is rather a mystery, as it was never explained."

These statements are clearly contradicting, as you've stated yourselves, as you had acquired knowledge at a meeting at Moss Vale Services Club that the underground workings are proposed directly under your property. This was also communicated to you via a letter in July 2015.

In regards to your bore (GW067305), as per advice from our consultants, EMM, the bore is classified as a test bore with no license number attached, meaning it is not registered for use (i.e. stock, domestic, irrigation etc.). In the make good assessments it was excluded because there is 'no current approval'. As a result we have no further comment.

As offered in previous correspondence, we are happy to arrange a suitable time meet with you again to discuss the details of the proposed project plans and any specific points of interest you might have at any stage of the project. You can reach us on [REDACTED] or via [REDACTED]

Kind regards,


Greig Duncan
Project Director
Hume Coal Project

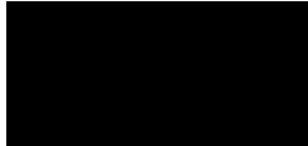
cc. Mr David Koppers, Independent Planning Commission NSW

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Attachments:

R.S and A.M Shead Holdings Pty Ltd



25th March 2014

Mob: 0412367033

Questions for Hume Coal

Q1.

- Please confirm to me in writing the number of holes you want to drill and when?
- Please confirm to me in writing the precise location of the proposed holes.
- Please provide me with a copy of the relevant Review of Environmental Factors (REF) or Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to drill at the co-ordinates provided above.
- Please confirm to me in writing before we proceed further that you have a current approval to drill the holes you now propose.
- Please give me a list of the equipment you are seeking to move onto and use on my property.

Q2.

- I have crops growing on my property, fence lines, farm tracks, dams and creeks. What measures are you taking to avoid damaging these improvements and assets?
- May I have a copy of your insurance so that I can ask to be included on the policy before you start drilling?
- What financial provision do you propose to make so that I am not out of pocket for legal advice and possible other costs.

May I please have complete and written answers to all the above questions? Once I am satisfied with these answers I will consider another meeting.

R. Shead

*A.M. Shead
15-3-14*

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5th May, 2014

RS and AM Shead Holdings Pty Ltd

Dear Mr & Mrs Shead,

Please find below Hume Coal Pty Ltd's responses to your questions provided at the meeting held at the Post Office Café on Tuesday 25th March, 2014.

- Please confirm to me in writing the number of holes you want to drill and when?

As indicated in appendix A of the s142 notification letter dated 31st January, 2014 (copy attached) Hume Coal proposes to drill 5 holes as depicted in the Plan of Indicative Proposed Borehole Locations provided.

- Please confirm to me in writing the precise location of proposed holes.

Please see appendix A of the s142 notification letter dated 31st January, 2014.

- Please provide me with a copy of the relevant Review of Environmental Factors (REF) or Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to drill at the co-ordinates provided above.

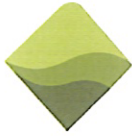
Hume Coal confirms that all required statutory approvals shall be in place prior to the commencement of prospecting operations. *Provision of approved REF will occur prior to commencement of drilling operations.*

- Please give me a list of the equipment you are seeking to move onto and use on my property.

Drill sites will comprise a water truck, drilling rig, drilling rod rack and truck, compressor, core handling and storage area, up to three above ground silt containment and water recycling tanks, portable office and portable toilet as depicted

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in the "Typical drill site layout" in the Drilling fact sheet most recently provided to you in the s142 notification letter dated 31st January, 2014.

- I have crops growing on my property, fence lines, farm tracks, dams and creeks. What measures are you taking to avoid damaging these improvements and assets?

Impact prevention and mitigation measures vary per drill site and shall be implemented in accordance with industry standards, good practice, conditions within the Authorisation 349 and associated approvals, as well as the site specific pre-prospecting recommendations of specialist consultants.

- May I have a copy of your insurance so that I can ask to be included on the policy before you start drilling?

Hume Coal has a \$20M Public Liability insurance policy in relation to its prospecting operations (which extends to properties, such as yours, which we may access to carry out prospecting operations). A copy of the certificate of currency for this insurance policy can be provided at our next meeting.

- What financial provision do you propose to make so that I am not out of pocket for legal advice and possible other costs?

Hume Coal will pay the reasonable legal costs of the landholder in obtaining initial legal advice about the making of a land access arrangement to a maximum of \$2,500.00 in accordance with s141(2A) of the Mining Act 1992.

Regards

Tim Rheinberger
Project Manager
Hume Coal Pty Limited

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8 July 2015

[Address]

Dear [landowner within the area of the proposed underground mine],

I would like to update you on our plans for an underground mining project which we will be sharing with the broader community this week.

Hume Coal will soon be submitting a Preliminary Environmental Assessment and application to commence the approval process to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, which is the first step in the development proposal for the underground mine.

The preliminary environmental assessment provides key details of the project including a description of the underground mining method, plans showing the proposed location of the surface infrastructure and underground parts of the mine, the results of preliminary environmental studies, and the proposed assessment approach during the environmental impact assessment.

As a landowner within the area of the proposed underground mine we want to make sure you're informed about the project.

- We have taken care to develop a project plan that will have minimal impact on your property and the local environment.
- We will use an innovative, low-impact mining system, so that there will be no subsidence (land movement) impacts now, or over the long-term.
- The groundwater aquifers will remain intact and undamaged for future generations. If mining does cause a reduction in groundwater levels at a bore you use, we will restore your water supply or provide an alternative that meets your requirements. Importantly, groundwater will revert to pre-mining levels after the completion of mining.
- Our work will not compromise existing agricultural activity or other land uses in the area.

Our priority is to ensure the project is undertaken in the most environmentally sensitive way possible. It will provide long-term careers for locals, while preserving and protecting the things that make this area special.

We encourage you to visit our website for more information at www.humecoal.com.au from the 10th July 2015.

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PROJECT

I invite you to contact me or one of the Hume Coal team if you have any questions or feedback. We will be happy to meet with you to discuss the details of the project plan and any specific points of interest you might have. You can reach us on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Greig Duncan
Project Director

SAMPLE 1