

3 minutes

Good afternoon

My name is Jane Lawler.

I live with my family at our property, ~~2516-2541~~ Medway road Medway.
We share two common boundaries, South and West, with Evandale, **historic agricultural land** now owned by Posco. Hume Coal.

In 1998 we purchased a bare 5 acre block, since then we **have built and established a home and garden. We have a beautiful place to live that we are very proud of, surrounded by good neighbours, friends and family.**

Our property will be severely impacted by the noise from the Hume coal project day & night.

We will be able to see the towering coal stockpiles from our kitchen/living room window, directly south at a distance of 750 metres.

We are one kilometre from the main mine infrastructure & rail loop.

We will be able to hear, see and smell this project twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.

Welcome to our world.

We rely on rain water - we are not on town water.

We are extremely concerned about our water supply being contaminated.

When we run our bore, it flows into our dam.

Our stock and gardens have relied on it over the years and we are very careful with it's use.

This water has to be protected.

To see it disappear or be irreparably damaged is not what we stand for, as we believe the land should be improved to pass onto future generations.

Our family building company has operated for 20 years.

It employs 5 full time tradesmen and always an apprentice.

Another 10 are employed as main contractors.

All local.

Our 20+suppliers operate local businesses.

For the last 8 years we have lived with the pressure and stress of planning and decision making without certainty.

Our response to this constant reminder that our lives have changed forever has always been measured and reasonable but if this proposed coal mine goes ahead, we will not be able to continue to live at our home and would have to question our future here in the Highlands.

The outcome of this, the ripple affect, is extensive.

We can only put forward our own experience and try to relay our value in the community.

We work under an unknown future with all our plans put on hold. We question any outlay of capital as our property will not return what we have put in if there is a coal mine next door.

It has been made clear to us by local real estate agents that "If the coal mine goes ahead our property will be unsaleable".

This is our reality.

We have waited for years for our future to be decided by others. The effect that this has had on us cannot be understated.

As Medway Road residents, we have met on two occasions with the Dept of Planning representatives. We met with their noise expert. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their decision not to approve this project.

While you are in the Southern Highlands please drive down Medway & Liebermans roads and have a look at the area, the homes, that will be affected by the noisy, working end of the coal mine day and night.

Think of us and the future generations that will suffer the effects on their water and landscape being permanently damaged if this project goes ahead as your decision is going to change all our lives.

We hope that the correct decision for us, our families & friends, our neighbours and most importantly - our community, will be made to NOT approve this project in any way or form.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.
