08.11.2016

Commissioners,

I write once more in objection to Anglo American's proposal to develop a new mine, Drayton South.

Although the reasons for rejecting this proposal are as manifest and numerous as they have always been, it appears that the local community is required to once again explain why this proposal is incompatible with the neighborhood.

I feel qualified to comment on this proposal as my family have owned and lived on the property from which I write, “Appletree”, at Appletree Creek, since 1913. My sons, aged seven and 11, comprise the fifth generation of Chapmans to reside on this property. Our tenure on this land thus predates the Anglo American acquisition of EL 5460 by some 75 years. It has been an irritatingly common and erroneous claim at past PAC’s that Anglo American’s tenure on their site predates Coolmore’s arrival, thus somehow bestowing supporters of the new mine with impromada to act in ways that the local community find objectionable. Whilst the “we were here first” claim by Anglo American is both wrong and nonsensical, and Coolmore and Darley studs are certainly the largest employers and businesses in the local community, they are not the only residents and businesses here. Anglo American and its supporters’ preoccupation with these two operations, and their absolute silence regarding existence of the generations of families that have been born, educated, and work in this area, speaks volumes as to their real concern for the local community. Nowhere in Anglo American’s submissions will you find any mention of the hundreds of families who reside in the immediate vicinity of this proposed new mine, who rely for their businesses on both a clean, quiet environment and the perception amongst our customers of a clean, quiet environment; similarly, nowhere will you find any commentary on the inevitable destruction of our livelihoods and way of life that approval of this new mine will bring. Their silence is commercially understandable, as should they have conducted any consultation here, the results would clearly show the depths of antipathy amongst the local residents and staff. While it is objectionably obvious to say it, no animals - humans included - can prosper whilst living next to an open cut coal mine that operates 24 hours per day. No food grower for either people or animals can in good conscience sell product that is covered in poisonous coal dust. No amount of sponsorship of local football teams can remediate the irreparable damage this proposal will do to the families and businesses that have been here long, long before Anglo American, who plan to be here long after they have gone, and who similarly cannot continue here if this proposal is approved.

It is worth noting the residential addresses of the proponents and supporters of this new mine. This proposal is for an open cut mine *in a community*. Its shareholder owners, supporters and former employees do not live in this community, the community that will bear the consequences of this mine should it be approved. For every potential employee who does not live in the neighborhood of this mine who feels that it is their right to be employed at the proposed mine, there is at least one local person living and working here who objects to it. Our jobs, our livelihoods, our way of life, are at least as equally as important as someone

else's job. We are not suggesting that this mine be rejected and that the proponents should then have to co-exist next to an open cut coal mine; yet this situation is what the proponents of this mine suggest our community should happily accept. It is patently unjust for a new business to insist that it be able to impose itself on the community against the community's wishes, and that the owners and workers extract the benefits, whilst the local community absorb the consequences. The consequences of this proposal are both immediate and enduring. The noise, vibration, dust, light and water pollution will be immediate, and endure for the life of the project. Some of these critical environmental impacts will be felt for hundreds, if not thousands of years after the mine has removed all the coal. After Anglo American has extracted all possible profit and left the area, the vast hole that will be left will fill with hyper-saline water that will inevitably poison the Hunter River, and potentially poison the aquifers the hole will destroy. No amount of economic rationalising or modelling can rectify or compensate for this, and it is dishearteningly notable that the proponents do not even try: the destruction of this prime agricultural land is simply a consequence of digging a big hole, but a consequence worth bearing. And it may well be, if you do not live in the community and do not have to deal with it. This attitude, though, is intolerable to this local community. We need this land to continue to be productive and sustainable, a position that is entirely incompatible with the current (and past) proposals for the new Drayton South mine.

I trust that you will, once again, make the right and proper decision regarding this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Bryan Chapman
[redacted]