

## **SUBMISSION: TAHMOOR SOUTH COAL – OBJECTION**

**SUBSIDENCE:** Our residence is close to centre of LW 104A

Predicted possible subsidence 1.3M, 6mm/M.

We purchased our home in Bargo in October 2017 after spending 22 years in Tahmoor in a small 3-bedroom home. We decided to pursue our lifelong dream of owning a brick house on a larger block for two reasons, 1. it was our dream and 2. to provide for our own future because we have been working and paying taxes our entire adult lives to plan for our own retirement and not have to depend solely on a government pension. ***We were told the mine was closing.***

In 2019 our homes were impacted by bushfires, in 2020 the world has been impacted by COVID-19. As a result of COVID-19 our superannuation funds have been impacted our livelihoods impacted and it is likely that it will take considerable time to recover.

I am 55 years old. My home is our sanctuary and our retirement investment. When we purchased our home, we were told that the ***Mine was going to close.*** Unfortunately, we were in the dark about the proposed mine until we recently started seeing DO NOT UNDERMINE BARGO signs in the area. The only contact we've had from SIMEC is a pamphlet received in our letterbox between 4 and 6 weeks ago, I cannot remember the exact date.

The plan for LW 104A is that it will be commencing around 2030 with completion around 2031. I will be 65-66 years when the longwall mine is going under our home.

- Is it fair to say that home values in our area will decrease because of the proposed mine extension? ***This is our nest egg.***
- Is it fair to assume that it's ok to damage and make good that damage to someone's home, the great Australian Dream?
- I am told there are situations in Tahmoor where homes have not been fully repaired, or are still waiting on decisions in regard to repairs or have even had claims rejected. At 66 years old I am not sure I will have it in me nor the funds to fight for my rights as many Tahmoor residents have had to do.
- I am feeling ***stressed and anxious*** about the proposed mining development damaging my home and the homes of others that are living in our area. I have given into crying on an almost daily basis since I became aware of the proposed mine a month or so ago.
- It is my preferred outcome that no mining will be done under our homes.
- There is no amount of money or repairs that can allow residents in this area to live happily and stress free over the next 10 to 15 years, which will be the approx. amount of time in my estimation for the mining to conclude and our land to settle.
- Our local real estate agent has advised me that selling homes significantly damaged by mine subsidence is difficult and has advised me that if I want to sell, I should do so now. Who will be willing to buy my home for what it is worth with a potential longwall mine going underneath it in the next 10 or so years?

**HOUSES:** Undermining houses is a critical issue.

- It is predicted that there are 143 homes to be directly impacted by being undermined. It is estimated that the total number of houses where there could be a potential offer of acquisition to be around 22. This is a staggering ***15% of nest eggs*** in our area that may be impacted so much that they will need to be acquired or demolished and rebuilt.
- There are a larger number of homes that will be indirectly affected by subsidence that are outside of the direct impact zones.

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- There *is* no compensation when it comes to our home. It is where we live, raise our families, it is where our heart is and where we come at the end of the day when we are weary. It is where we gather to make decisions, rest, play, eat and sleep and ***It is our NEST EGG.***
- THERE IS NO MATERIAL OR MONETARY JUSTIFICATION TO PUT PEOPLES HOMES AND LIVES IN JEOPARDY.

**NOISE & TRAFFIC:** I chose to live in a rural setting, not the City. There will be an extra 190 vehicle movements per day directly from the Mine which includes an increase to employees and haulage of materials to and from the mines.

### **NOISE**

- My house is in NCA6 and there will be an increase in noise especially noted at night.
- Noise is already a factor that I live with on a daily basis not to mention our windows shake when trains go by and they tremor of an evening which I'm told is as a result of the coal crusher, although I have never been able to establish whether this is true.
- Trains are loud and screeching, they wake us nearly every night. Is there going to be more regularity of trains transporting coal?
- The noise means we do not keep our front windows open at night, and with projected night time noise to increase it won't even be an option.
- I work from home and find that I need to leave the house on occasion just to get some peace and quiet, to quieten my mind.

### **TRAFFIC**

- It is well known that The Wollondilly Community in general live in an area with roads that are well ***below standard.***
- Increased traffic in the area generated by the mine, particularly further heavy haulage vehicles, can only impact all roads into and out of the Bargo/Tahmoor area.

**WATER:** Thirlmere Lakes | Mermaids Pools | Water catchment | Bargo River

- Thirlmere Lakes *was* a great place to take our children and spend weekend afternoons swimming and having fun with friends and family. Any person that has lived in the area for a number of years will tell you what happened to our lakes. ***THE MINES.***
- Mermaids Pool and Bargo River are inundated with pollution from the mine. A report I read recently suggested that 1/3 of the water flowing into the pools is polluted water from the mine, consisting of Arsenic, Nitrogen, Uranium, Aluminium and Zinc. Is it then estimated that this will increase because of increased mining activity if this mine proposal is approved?
- There is no certainty which homes will be directly impacted from longwall mining in Bargo, and there can be no possible certainty that mining so close to our Water Catchments will result in these catchments being unaffected by mining in the region.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

- The building industry has helped keep Australia's economy going during the COVID-19 pandemic. Development brings new residents; it provides employment and in turn creates demand for new infrastructure which will lead us to a more sustainable future.
- Development is key for Bargo in the years ahead, it will provide us with the tools to grow our town. Mining has done nothing to improve Bargo township in the years that the mine has been operating in Tahmoor.

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I can only liken this mining proposal to a jail sentence. Should this mine be approved we will be sentenced to 10-15 years of uncertainty and when it is over, I will not be compensated for the time I have lived in fear, anxiety, stress, the extra noise, pollution and any work that I may have to undertake to ensure my home is fit to live in.

Quote:

**To flourish, we all need a safe place - both physically and emotionally - to come home to.**