Planning and Assessment Commission.

05-09-2012

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: Coalpac Consolidation Project: Application No: 10_1078

The Town of Cullen Bullen is already being negatively impacted by nearby Open-cut mining activity.

I object to the Coalpac Open-Cut Consolidation Proposal entirely.

I have lived in Cullen Bullen for 35 Years. I am a retired Mining Mechanical Engineer and have been involved with Mining for 40 Years. I do not object to Underground Mining where it does not impact on the surface Enviroment.

Further to my previous submission.

I object for these reasons:

- **Dust**: Cullen Bullen is in a valley between two large hills running basically South West to the North East. We get wind regularly from the South and South West and often from the North. The dust coming into Cullen Bullen is not the heavy particles but the very fine dust that travels large distances. Our House is of modern construction on a Concrete Slab with Aluminium Windows and Doors and fully insulated. Up until Invincible Colliery expanded its operations some years ago our house was relatively dust free. A damp paper towel wiped across flat surfaces picks up large amounts of dark dust. What is this dust doing to all of our lungs? The mine in their response stated they will introduce a Real Time Monitoring System. Why has this system not been in use since the mine expanded some years ago? (COAL DUST KILLS)

- **Noise**: As with Dust, noise levels will be difficult to eliminate or reduce. A Coal Preparation plant (ETCPP) will be sited in the East Tyldesley Lease area 1 kilometre from the centre of Cullen Bullen. It has now been revealed that it will be a Coal Washery Plant, with associated crushers and Bradford Breaker. Cullen Bullen Progress Community Hall is the centre of the Village which puts the Coal Washery 1000 metres from it and houses to the North within 200 metres from it. When the mine was mining close to the Southern end of the Village the dozer tracks could be heard along with the engine noise. If the Mine is permitted to mine close to the Village in the North South and East 24 Hours per Day, how is the noise going to be eliminated. Coalpac’s justification for their Consolidation Project is that they have used Modelling on parts of the project. We must rember that it is not an exact science.
• If approved **Will** the government take responsibility for health issues resulting from the impact of coal dust emitted by Coalpac and the stress caused by the noise pollution?

• **CREEK**- As shown on Topographic Map 8931-3-N as a watercourse it has always been known as a creek by the locals, and in the 40 Years I have lived here it has always flowed and should not be interfered with.

• **BLASTING**- With Coalpac intending to mine in different areas of their lease at the same time and increase blasting to 20 times per Month, as with the Dust this will only increase the Problem. The vibration and shock wave created has already damaged properties in the Village by cracking walls, cracking driveways and other damage. The Mine, which has been contacted by home owners, is reluctant to inspect or in some cases talk to property owners.

• **Highwall Mining**- Objection to this is that there is no plan. They have only made a broad statement length of headings, width of headings and no width of the barrier between headings. Where is the guarantee that no damage will be caused?

• **Hours of operation**- I object to the proposed 24 Hour 7 Days Production. Due to the close proximity of large machinery and the proposed Coal Washery, within 1 kilometre from the centre of Cullen Bullen, during the evenings, noise from this would be extremely difficult to eliminate. We must remember Cullen Bullen lies between two large long hills which is part of the Great Dividing Range and noise bounces off these hills.

• **School**- Coalpac mentions the school in their response to dust. The children are at school for 7 hours a Day. Most of the children live in Cullen Bullen and when they go home some will be closer to the mine. Will Coalpac worry about them for the 17 hours that they are home?

• **Meetings**- As stated by Coalpac in their response.
  (A) A company engaged by Coalpac interview a selected number of residents’ (not the full Community) these residents were payed $100 for attending. The remainder of the Community had no input.

  (B) Coalpac information days at Cullen Bullen Community Hall. The information on display was highly technical and went over most people’s heads, especially the elderly and people with no prior mining knowledge.

  (C) Council Meeting held at the Community Hall was attended by the Community, Coalpac Management, Council and the mines work force. It ought to have been the affected Cullen Bullen residents only. No vote was carried out on the issue.
but forms were handed out to be filled in with the attending public’s response. Therefore, in my opinion, the outcome does not reflect a true and honest opinion of the affected residents of Cullen Bullen. To gauge a true and honest response to this matter I feel that another meeting for Cullen Bullen Residents ONLY ought to be re-held and chaired this time by a member from a State Government department without Council and Coalpac.

- **In Conclusion**- Cullen Bullen is on the Great Dividing Range. This area has been extensively underground mined to the point very little Coal reserves remain intact and is of poor quality. The area on the Eastern side of Cullen Bullen from Baal Bone Colliery back to the Wolgan Road has been extensively worked out over the last 150 years by underground mining. Any Coal remaining in these areas is thin seam coal and coal that could not be reached from underground, and mostly of poor quality and high ash content. The surface has remained virtually intact and should remain this way for future generations to enjoy, in my opinion.

I therefore ask that this destructive mining proposal be rejected entirely.

In the devastating event that this proposal gets approval, I request that these conditions be placed on the mine:

- Operating hours remain at current approval 7AM to 5.30 PM and only Maintenance to 10 PM.

- Mining should not come within 1.5 kilometres of either side of the Castlereagh Highway. (East/West). 2.5 Kilometres North and 2.5 Kilometres South of Cullen Bullen.

- Blasting is restricted to no than 2 Blasts per week.

- Dust and noise monitoring be carried out by an independent authority reporting back to the Mine, community and EPA.

- There is a 500 metres standoff zone from Pagodas and significant Rock features.

- I look forward to hearing from your department once you have considered all submissions including this one.

I have not made any political donations of $1,000 or more to any political party over the past two years.
Yours Sincerely

Ken Bunyon