

My name is Desmond Jacobs, a resident of [REDACTED] and I have been living here for 29 years.

When my family and I first moved here, [REDACTED] was just that. A lane, no pavement, barely enough room for 2 cars to pass comfortably. Coal trucks, not B Doubles, then turned onto Princes Highway and drove towards Corrimal. [REDACTED] is now a major thoroughfare, much too frequently dominated by dirty, noisy coal trucks, either emanating from or returning to Wollongong Coal's Russell Vale Colliery.

My wife and I are now both retired, trying to enjoy the latter part of our lives and also the rewards most people enjoy after finishing their lifetime of work.

I don't know everything there is to know about mining but I can tell you my experiences living less than 250 metres from the entrance to Wollongong Coal's Russell Vale Mine. Their trucking commences at 7 in the morning . . . so we wake up to the sound of trucks, big B Double trucks continuously driving to their own beat . . . inconsiderate of the residents living in [REDACTED] and the surrounding areas, all hoping to catch the green traffic light at either end of [REDACTED]. The noise is unbearable so much so that my wife, Sylvia, has actually taken stats of the number of trucks passing in one hour at various times and over a period of 4 days. The number of trucks entering the mine varies between 15 and 20 in an hour and the number exiting ranges from 15 to 17 per hour. They tend to arrive in two's so the empty trucks generate much more noise, causing our front windows to rattle and the house vibrates.

This carries on until 9 or 10 at night every day of the week. Of the 4 days, 2 days had 32 trucks in total . . . entering and exiting in one hour and the remaining 2 days had a total of 35 and 29 truck movements respectively, entering and exiting in one hour. This means that in a total trucking day of 14 hours . . . times . . . 32 trucks, we have 448 truck movements in one day.

We cannot leave our front door or windows open for the dust and grit. The outside cladding of our house is constantly covered with soot and requires regular high pressure washing. Also the gutters fill up with coal dust and have to be cleaned regularly. The dirt from the mine and the trucks also affects the washing on our wash line as well as the front verandah which needs constant sweeping . . . and I haven't even mentioned the fact that we inhale this pollutant every day.

The noise levels too, are unbearable especially at night when not many motorists are using [REDACTED] Television viewing is made almost impossible with the noise created by the trucks. Quite often they travel in pairs, sometimes making normal speech impossible. Trying to speak normally quite often ends up sounding like a shouting match.

It's all very well for those raking in the money from the mine. At the end of their day, they go home to their nice dust-free homes, in their nice quiet suburbs.

And now they want approval for an expansion that will multiply all these problems threefold. Is there no end to greed, no consideration for the environment, the community which has to put up with their noise and dirt? **I SAY NO TO THE EXPANSION!! ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!**