

Meeting Notes for Ian Jackson

Speaker No. 12

14/11/2017

I'm a resident of [REDACTED] where I live with my wife and two children aged 9 and 12.

Our residence lies directly in front of the proposed Rocky Hill Mine. We have been and will continue to be impacted by every facet of this development.

In 2012 and 2013 I was member of the GRL consultative committee. During that time I made it very clear to Mr Grant Polworth and Mr Bob Corbett that the development application had to be driven to a decisive outcome and conclusion as residents of Forbesdale were getting older, some were quite sick, and others would start to find it hard to realise the value of their properties to make the lifestyle decisions required in their twilight years. All comments regarding this matter were digitally voice recorded by Mr Terence Healy Chair and Solicitor from Dungog.

4 years on and another development application put in by GRL has seen two residents pass away that were directly impacted by the development, two residents have walked from their properties and retired somewhere else without trying to sell them. One elderly couple have had their property for sale for at least a year and half and our closest neighbours Mr & Mrs Bob and Rhonda West who are in their mid 70's have not bothered to place their property for sale as agents have told them it's a waste of time and they know they will not be able to achieve any reasonable value if this development is in front of them.

I can verify their concerns as in 2010 we wanted to consolidate some debt the valuer stood at the glass sliding doors overlooking the site and asked where's the mine going you know this will affect the value of your property. This was reported in Sydney Morning Herald article "Rural peace under threat when mines move next door" By Debra Jobson 26-27 Jan 2011

For the first time in ten years we were approached by GRL's Mr Brain Clifford to talk about a price guarantee for our residence. He contacted my wife on 03/May /2017 and wanted to invite himself around in two hours for a cuppa and a chat.

My wife had informed him she was in Foster shopping and we could not accommodate his time for a visit. Mr Clifford then sent a text asking us to arrange a better time.

We thought it to be a bit odd that after such a long period that meeting would be arranged with such short lead time.

As this proposal seemed it was involving GRL having some control over our property we sent an email rather than responding by text.

In the email we said that on face value we did not consider that the offer dealt with the impacts the mine would have our property but would be happy to consider any proposal on its merits. To this day we have not heard back from GRL. It's with a great deal of certainty that I can say our five closest neighbours did not take up the offer the price guarantee offer from GRL.

We all know the impacts this development will have on our properties we feel the wind blowing through the Morgani ranges and across the mine site to our properties we know how noise travels in the valley.

We have experienced 1st hand with the AGL gas exploration in front of our residence that what gets said and what gets delivered are 2 totally different things. AGL media statements said that it would be as quiet as a library and no noisier than a hospital. Yet my house and family were impacted by noises such as metal on metal rock on metal sometimes at 11.00 o'clock at night and multiple machinery movements from the the two wells in front of us on the other side of the Avon river for 6 days a week. We had to close windows and doors to control. These matters and others were reported to the Gloucester Dialogue and compliance officers.

In 2013 Mr Grant Polworth and Bob Corbett visited our neighbours Bob & Rhonda West and were told no one was being bought out and they might consider sound proofing their residence.

So, if this development application had been approved myself and many other residents would have been stuck with nowhere to go. As GRL said and is reinforced by their price guarantee offer that no one was being bought out, there was no compensation for the impacts on property values and sound proofing was at their own discretion. The impacts from this do not conveniently stop at lines on maps such as railway lines and peoples fence lines.

After 5 years and two development applications which the State Govt and its depts. have found deficient and what I have told you tonight I think it shows that Gloucester Resources Limited are unable to deal with and adequately resolve the issues which it has created over the last decade.

I therefore ask you and the minister to bring this matter to decisive and substantial conclusion. Its unacceptable that we are 6 ,12 months, 3 years living with active leases in front of us waiting for GRL to have another go. It's unacceptable that under sunset clauses that residents are waiting up to 11 years for any special conditions to be enacted.

Very real and tangible outcomes for issues outlined that exist for residents need to be delivered now. So we can all get on with our lives after a decade of uncertainty.