

I ask that any extension be refused.

Things are changed from 20 years back. The impacts from new mines have stacked up, forcing better regulations. No mining should be continued under the old regulations, let alone extended.

~ 29 km north
In Scone, we smell the mines now, sulphur on the morning air. We see coal dust sticking to our paintwork as things are. Our sunsets *are* still clearer than Muswellbrook's though, and we don't want its high dust levels. We know about its health problems.

Air Monitoring is now needed beyond Scone and up to Merriwa.

The Hunter Valley looks devastated now. It horrifies visitors. As I understand, a later extension of this mine would eventually crash through into the upper valley, across Castle Rock Road ridge, to be clearly seen from Scone and beyond. This application looks like an opener, angling for just that.

Muswellbrook's ugly new scar is seen from road, rail and the Big W Carpark. We hate it for taking the natural hillside, which no rehab will replace. Stop it right there.. it's shocking to all who see it.

There is a beautiful world class viewing point on Castle Rock Road. But for this mine, Tourists and locals might enjoy its beauty, discover the mysterious Castle Rock, and nourish local tourism ventures and *healthy* employment, on into a sustainable future.

Mine rehabilitation makes big claims, but misses the point. I saw one site recently, not large but well located to hide a horrific chasm from the railway, and it had a smoke plume erupting from it.

Too much natural and built Heritage lies behind Mine fencing. It holds the stories of local society over millenia, and over our own centuries. Digging it all out is cultural murder. It is the crushing of human meaning. For what.

A 2014 Heritage Report tagged items for retention. Yet, some have since been demolished. (eg Berrywood, 2014 Tickle Report) So how can the applicant still demand to go on destroying?

I ask Commissioners to investigate all Heritage processes to date.

Coal mines have driven financial dependance in Hunter Valley towns, emptied our districts and set up a two tier economy. They take the tradies, and dominate career training. They disrupt family life with unholy shift hours and with noise, make our roads unsafe and the workers sick. We want mines finished and out, not marching further up the valley with dust and nightlights.

The top jobs off site are overseas: truck design; manufacturing; exporting, and managing the profits.

Back here in the holes, it takes large salaries to induce variously skilled people to drive machines destroying the peace, the land, the history and livelihoods of their fellow countrymen. This is shameful and demoralising.

For all your children long term, we need the Upper Valley to stay intact, and Mt Pleasant to remain natural and beautiful.

Starting to dig here was a mistake; continuing would be disastrous for us here, and for the planet.

****Definitely no, to any extension of mining.

Beverley Atkinson B.Arch

Scone NSW 2337

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Mount Pleasant mine extension
Date: Sunday, 8 July 2018 1:04:47 PM

To IPC for consideration of Mach Energy's application to extend the time of operation of Mt Pleasant Mine to 2026.

From Bev Atkinson, B. Arch UNSW 1976. One of the speakers on Wed. 4 July 2018.

[REDACTED], Scone. [REDACTED]

As written in the speech handed in, I object to any extensions of mines, or new mines for coal, and particularly in the north Hunter Valley.

*Mach Energy supporters gave points in favour, with a profit incentive. Good fellows, give us gifts, offer jobs for some locals.

*The Governments support the private application, for revenue and for votes from many who vote for an "any jobs = prosperity for me" concept.

*The objectors (unlike the other two, unpaid and without any incentive other than the public good) have deeply researched, paid expert researchers, and extended themselves at their own great cost over years, to raise questions. Some are personally deprived by Mine expansions. Some only generally.

We need to examine the support, as it was expressed on Wednesday last.

.....Yes, **Mach** can be good fellows. As said by a supplier "they are, like us, the new kids on the block".. so new that they don't see that their gifts cannot compensate for the harm they don't yet understand they are doing? But yes, some locals find custom and employment with them. However, none of that actually supports that particular Mine, extending in that Place, almost in town. All those points would apply to a safer location doing less damage.

The advantage Mach did NOT describe, was their greater quick profits from using cheap shortcuts in landscape rearrangement and dam building. That revision of 1997 plan arose from an apparent lack of understanding of the original care taken with the former approved design. Also not realised by Mach, the predictable drop in production due to operational realities, as described by Mt Arthur's manager.

The quoted Government statement favouring action to enable Mach's successful profits, (no mention of the public interest) was unworthy of a Government or any Departmental people. Jobs in the Departments are at stake here? How many leave and take pay cut rather than go along with such views?

.....The **Governments** need to compare the (relatively small and finite) coal mining revenues to ongoing (even just local) health costs, loss of work costs (eg 5 helicopter transfers on just one of the elevated pollution days), and the actual decline in Muswellbrook prosperity. They need to factor in the permanent loss of other, sustainable,

industries which need no rehabilitation, livelihoods, and the whole Tourism industry fighting the obvious devastation of the valley landscape. Government departments are not new kids on the block; they should be skilled and motivated to question the mistakes made. The Government assessment bent on revenue and job-votes though, has not studied or measured the hydrology blunders. Neither have they considered the cumulative effects on people, land, species, heritage and industries including tourism. These effects arise from the totally changed context of new mines, altered water supply and altered climate prospects. This entire situation is both worsening and better understood, than in 1999. In such a context, even the safer 1997 plan would not have been accepted.

.....The **objectors** are so underfunded, and so heavily opposed by large money interests, that they cannot afford to make mistakes, must not overlook points, and must establish truth and fact in what they say (Govt requires this of objectors, rather more so than of itself).

******* Therefore the points raised by Objectors in general, are in fact a sound and Benign Government's best, and cheapest, asset and investment.**

In the expectation and hope that DPE will consider with care, all the points raised and submitted by the observant public, I will not repeat points made.

But these points were not made:

We already sit amid the ruins of the Earth. Australia was not long ago, a pristine remnant of the natural Earth, used sustainably, cleanly and with understanding by its people. We, new people, are now its terminal infestation, invading the last of its clear nodes with more desperation, more aggression, greed, fog and falsehood the closer we come to the inevitable end. Rising seas have already dislodged islanders to mainlands. But there is still sequestered carbon in the ground! So Unearth it! Burn it! I need cooling with my own air-conditioner in my badly designed house!

Jobs! Any jobs anywhere! they cry... China smiles, its other hand positioning its own solar power products to take the last commercial prizes, before overpopulation beats all such efforts towards general human and species survival.

In Muswellbrook, make no mistake; its economic disadvantage and decline, its two tier economy, were exacerbated by mines, never solved by them. One extra is not going to turn that round. The new "Mount Pleasant" mine, hideously in the face of everyone shopping at Big W, or living on the hillside, has we now hear, already doubled the local dust count since its opening last year. ** Ask Pat Collins about the asthma situation. Google THE Centre.

It is a fair question asked everywhere, why should Muswellbrook, already with a prison, Power station winds, and poverty in the two tier economy, have to take this rap, for small revenues to government, profits to foreign companies, and for transient, stressful, dangerous shift working which splits family life?

This Valley used to have many more dairies, vineyards, farms, and crops, and market gardens for the St Helier inmates to get good work experience; in healthy, useful pursuits. What good can it do anyone, to be paid to destroy their own community's properties, crushing their grandfathers' farms and houses into rock heaps and chasms of nothing, forever.

"Final voids" they call them. Yes. We want our Government to earn its taxes;

step right back from making the Final Void at our expense.

Bev Atkinson. 8.7.18