



The Secretary,
Department of Planning and Environment,
Carolyn.McNally@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: Boggabri Coal Mine Mod 7

Dear Secretary;

I am writing to you regarding the Boggabri Coal mine Mod 7 application currently in the planning system.



As such there is no formal exhibition period for Mod 7 and the community will find it difficult to establish the nature or the purpose of the modification and the extent to which residents are reassured by the mine company briefing.

This is not the only mine in the region which has enjoyed swift planning approval changes which taken cumulatively will impact our district and its environment.

As you should know the community of Maules Creek and our neighbours on the other side of Leard State Forest are very concerned about the impacts of the coal mines approved by the NSW government which are conducting de-watering operations and installing new borefields.

Quite a few community members have lost their groundwater despite the “strict” approval conditions. Many have been spending money drilling new bores, deepening old ones or cleaning out existing bores. The groundwater dependent ecosystems are also suffering.

We believe that if minor and administrative changes can be made swiftly for the benefit of the mines there should be quid quo pro changes to approval negotiated to benefit the community.

Amongst those changes are the backfilling of all voids, the metering of all groundwater pumps, the shifting of the burden of proof to the miners to ensure the community is protected if groundwater impacts are being experienced.

This is what the community wants but at this time has no ability to achieve these outcomes. We think the Department should transition all approvals to more community and environmentally friendly conditions as the miners come forward with extensions, expansions, and administrative and minor modifications.

With regard to Mod 7, I am asking that you ensure the project is put on exhibition for 28 days and that you negotiate the quid quo pro condition changes mentioned above.

Kind Regards

