

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission of Objection to the Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project - SSD 10418 15 July 2022
Date: Friday, 15 July 2022 3:25:55 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for making the opportunity available to ordinary citizens such as myself and my family to make comment as to the suitability of this proposal.

My background is that I am a resident of Victoria who has lived and worked within Australia during all of my working life running my own business for 20 plus years including a property development company and also working as a teacher including leadership and directorial responsibilities for 30 years. My wife has also worked as a teacher for some 35 plus years while also working in our company. I have brought up my two children here, one is a recent 1st class Honours graduate in Engineering (RMIT) the other in the process of obtaining her degree in Fine Arts at the University of Melbourne (VCA).

The issue here for me is one of the prioritisation of values to gain best possible outcomes for our community and the future of our country of Australia. As such, I believe it essential that we make every effort when making such critical decisions involving far-reaching projects such as this MPOP to carefully analyse the effect this development has had until now, and moreover, the effect it is most likely to have in the future upon our communities. Such an analysis must come from consideration of affects upon health: meaning both personal health (physical and mental) and also environmental health including it's effect not only upon the immediate community but also the state of New South Wales and our nation more broadly.

Events unfolding now upon the world stage both politically and environmentally underpin the **urgent** need for us to face the unarguable reality that we must adopt sound policies and practices that ensure we attain national security and independence in the shortest possible time frame. This can only occur if we adopt fundamental values, policies and practices which ensure long-term national economic independence and security. The clear example of recent events in northern Europe shows beyond any doubt the importance of making (or not making) clear, well-informed and well thought-through decisions regarding one's own national security. By this I refer to the development of independent and robust infrastructure and resources including power and other supply systems and infrastructure. To not do so with this clear focus in mind will be a folly which we may deeply regret for many years to come and as many European countries are suffering at this very moment.

I watched with great interest representations of those speaking to Commissioners on the 7th and 8th of July. It concerned me deeply to listen to reports of long-term adverse affects upon respiratory and other physical health of local residents as well negative impacts upon the psychological health of local community members who are faced with the ongoing physical and visual impact of the existing Mt Pleasant mine. I am also concerned that there seemed to be little meaningful concern shown by mine owners MACH Energy as to the levels of dust mining work generates nor the visual and deeper, long-term environmental impacts that will almost certainly be far-reaching and largely negative. I also listened to local business people who spoke to the benefits the mine brought to the local economy, and although these were anecdotal reports, it is clear these financial benefits were enjoyed. I listened to the MACH management position and feel I understand their point of view, they have made a significant investment and they wish to continue making a serious profit for their shareholders for as long as possible. It is however deeply disappointing and unarguable that there has been little or no effort made to mitigate the effect of dust and visual pollution and the issue of future impediment to local communication infrastructure upon the local community remains unaddressed by the company in any practical manner.

Analysis of the affect of the existing mine upon the local community and physical environment leaves me in no doubt that except for some (in relative terms, small but not inconsequential) financial benefit to some local community members who have benefitted directly via employment and/or provision of support services, the overall impact has been extremely negative. Community members experience ongoing physical and psychological ill-health and one can only wonder as to whether such feelings will continue to worsen leading toward a deep sense of hopelessness and depression over an extended time should this development be permitted to expand as proposed by MACH Energy's proposed additional 22 years.

It is understandable that mine owners such as MACH Energy would want to make the most of their financial investment in the hope of maximising profit for as long as they are able. That is what companies do. However, I respectfully ask you as Commissioners to please consider whether supporting such a proposal in this form is in the very best interests of the people of Musswellbrook and surrounding areas and indeed for NSW and our country more broadly. It is clear that the world cannot move to alternative power supply methods in a heartbeat. However, to permit an extension of 22 additional years is patently ludicrous if we are to consider our own communities, community health and natural environment by any measure as important.

The German government announced yesterday that it is taking steps to become independent of the need for Russian gas **in time for the next European winter**. Motivation for the German government to achieve such independence is extremely high as it is vital they meet this urgent 12-month time line. The effect upon their population of choosing not to take such action would almost certainly be catastrophic. Fortunately, at this moment we do not suffer such a life and death emergency as do the citizens of Germany. However, we do need to make timely decisions and without delay. Now and today as such opportunities as the MPOP review present themselves we are duty-bound to do all we can to guarantee the best possible future outcomes regarding health, hope and direction for OUR communities for both the present and for the longer term. A definitive statement of support at this time in favour of limiting the Mt Pleasant mine to a very small number (handful) of "transition years" will send a clear and unambiguous message of support and understanding to the rural communities surrounding this mine and will give great confidence to all energy innovators of whom there are many in Australia to forge ahead with the development of comprehensive alternative energy programmes. Such clear direction is presently sadly lacking. Further, quality, vital agricultural lands around the existing mine will be protected from additional degradation.

We need to show directly and meaningfully now through the quality of decision making in respect of the MPOP that rural communities matter deeply to us and that as a nation we are intelligent folk who value our communities and are solidly committed to taking actions in our decision-making that forge a better path and future for all our citizens.

Yours sincerely,

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