

My name is Sarah Lockwood. I am speaking because I am extremely concerned on the potential impacts the mine may cause to my family, God forbid it goes ahead.

If the mine is approved, I will never have my mind at ease. Not only for the immediate impacts it will have to my family, but for the long-term silent consequences that slowly evolve overtime.

I am a mother of 3 boys. Billy 9, Max 8 & Henry 4. All who have ASD & ADHD. We are in the long process of further syndrome diagnosis; potential Cardiac issues and one has a learning disability.

What this means is that the boys have specific needs and sensory challenges. Noise is a particular issue. The mine will create noise from earthworks & explosions, which we strongly oppose to have near our house.

Noise sends Billy in distress. It gives him physical pain and extreme anxiety. Hand dryers, Hair dryers, fireworks, alarms, vibrations, sirens, engines, loud music, crowds and much more all send him in a painful meltdown.

Max loses his ability to process thoughts and his coherent function, which often becomes unintentionally dangerous.

And little Henry has sudden violent outbursts of pure uncontrollable rage. The type where you hide the knives, pointy pencils and any sharp or blunt objects that can be used as a projectile or weapon.

And this is just the effect from noise.

Max is asthmatic and has unresolved cardiac problem, anxiety and depression. He is only 8.

I am constant consultation with medical professionals due to the boy's diagnosis. Pharmacists, GP's, Occupation Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Psychologists, Pediatricians, A&E, just to name a few.

The medical system is at boiling point. It is a constant struggle to even obtain appointments. I fear adding more families to the district will increase pressure on the fractured & exhausted medical system, putting people at risk.

It will also increase pressures on the housing issue our communities currently face. Homes are unaffordable and there are not enough rental properties available for everyone as it stands now. Bringing more families in will be detrimental. Local families already doing it tough can't compete.

Our property boundaries the Vittoria State Forrest. We are within 2km of the proposed tailings dam. We are only a westerly breeze away from dust contamination. Pine trees come and go. And there is not much in-between to stop the dust or noise travelling from explosions and earthworks.

I would like to express my disappointment in Regis as I have not received any correspondence whatsoever. My home is not identified on the impacted properties map published by the DPE. My family have been forgotten. To my knowledge, I thought it were a high priority all residence within 2km to be consulted.

You see we have moved here mostly because of the boys' conditions. To a quiet, calm, beautiful property. Away from the hustle and bustle, away from anxiety threats & noise to a place they can enjoy, explore and be a boy without the external pressures and desensitize from the busy world. We spent large amount to money renovating the house to accommodate the family and make the boys forever home. Close to their local school and future high school that will accommodate their needs. This is not something that can be easily replaced.

Relocating is not an easy task when special needs children struggle with change. Change routines, surroundings, they get very particular with familiarities and small changes can cause big upsets. Sometimes its not an obvious meltdown. It's a behavior, or a new fixation or new sensory issue that arises from change. We had to prepare the boys for over a year before actually moving and that in itself, is not easy. Its something others do not understand or even consider when dealing with their typical children.

My husband Jon and I have had endless conversations about our uncertain future due to the mine. We are stressed, which is having a horrible impact on our families mental & physical health. The children overhear our worries even though we try to hide it.

Nowadays with the evolving threat to our planet, kids are being taught at school from a young age about how the actions of today are impacting tomorrow, resulting in accelerating climate change. We are not doing a good job of leading by example. They tell the children we need to look after the environment whilst doing the complete opposite. This mine is a perfect example to the analogy "Do as I say, not as I do".

With all I have learned about the proposed mine I can see how detrimental it will be on our future.

The mine is constant niggle in the back of my head. Wondering if we will be given a death sentence. Whether it be slow poisoning from contamination to our tank water, breathing in & accumulating harmful elements from dust, Mental health & wellbeing, asthma attacks, meltdowns & injuries..... Dramatic as this may sound, it's a mother's truth.

I plead with you not to simply tick the yes box and allow this mine to happen. Please take a moment to consider the consequences on a family from our perspective.

On behalf of myself and my children I thank you for your time today.