

C. LeBrocq & B. Baker

Jerry Plains NSW 2330 |

13/2/19

Independent Planning Commission

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Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St Sydney

NSW 2000

Dear Independent Planning Commission

e: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

We are writing in response to the Wambo-United Project. We are currently residents of the Jerrys Plains community and are a neighbouring property to the current and proposed Wambo/United projects on Redmanvale Road.

After reading the response of the project developers to the IPC and sitting in on the public hearing on the 7th February 2019, we have a few points we would like to present to the Commission that are still of concern as a resident in close proximity to the mine and the forecasted United project.

We would also like to reinforce that we are NOT opposed to the project and support the many benefits for the economy, employment and the community that this project can offer. We are requesting reassessment for acquisition rights as we believe our property is greatly affected by the current conditions put out by the Wambo operations and the future forecasts of the United project.

- We have made recent observations whilst travelling home of a night (around midnight at times), that the operations ramp up under the cover of night on the Jerrys Plains Road area of the mine. We observed numerous ancillary equipment (bulldozers and excavators) in this area of the mine, and we rarely see this type of operation occur in the daytime. Our concern is obviously excess noise of a night and dust output. If this is the current actions of Wambo, will the United project also portray these types of actions? I have attached 2 videos of an excavator working on the northern edge of the Wambo Operations at approx 6:15pm on the 6th December 2018 showing tremendous amounts of excess dust travelling towards our property and the Jerry's Plains community. We reported this incident to the Department of Planning as well as the EPA immediately. It has been over 2 months and we had not been contacted by either department to let us know the progress of this report. My partner Brendan contacted them today the 12th February 2019. The response he received is the same automated response I receive when I've lodged email complaints to the mine directly. We are always told they are "within their limits for that day". Michael Franklin from the DPE told us our video footage isn't enough proof of dust heading to our property. I will let you be the judge. The excavator is at the northern most point of the pit and the next landmark to the north is our property. Once again poor dust management by Wambo. We forever feel like we are getting an automated response with nothing being investigated or followed up. The DPE said they'd also come out and do some night monitoring but they have not put this into action either. We just confirmed this with them today.

- When it comes time to mine the old underground workings - our concern is how will the dust output of this be predicted. Both Brendan and I have worked in coal mines and have observed that when mining old underground workings, the dust output is magnified significantly to usual dust output. Unpredictable even at times. If these underground workings are to be mined for weeks or months on end this will greatly increase the figures for dust output to close by residents and in turn quality of outdoor lifestyle.
- Another point we'd like to raise in reference to unpredictability is blast plumes and the distance they can cover. It was raised at the public hearing that blast fumes in other coal mines have travelled of distances up to 3km. This would bring our property to within reach of potential blast plumes and the toxic effects of these fumes.
- We observed in the report that the goal posts have been shifted for figures that the projected operations have to meet in terms of dust and noise. These new limits give the advantage to the mine not the residents. Even under the "old" limits we believed from practical and physical point of view that we were disadvantaged. By this we mean that the mine is abiding by the limits that have been set in terms of dust and noise, but what we physically see, inhale and hear are a different scenario. As a speaker brought up at the public meeting. "there is no safe level of dust. Above zero is a compromise". Her statement was referenced from a report done by Ruth Calgary. The figures that we are presented with over and over in response emails, do not represent how we actually live being in close proximity to the mine. If the figures were different our acquisition would be successful, but unfortunately, we fall into the active management zone, based on these figures. After living and breathing the conditions for 3.5 years, we are requesting that the current noise and dust output figures be questioned and altered to reflect what is happening in reality for residents on Redmanvale Road. As our neighbour pointed out in her address to the panel at the public hearing, all figures are rounded down for noise. Which leaves us just out of the criteria for acquisition. Wambo's active management of noise and dust has been poor to date. Wambo also offered to install a first flush system on our down pipes to improve water quality. We were first contacted about this project around June 2018 and still nothing has been installed.
- In support of our previous point, the southern side (Wambo side) of our house is currently unusable. We have two small children and we do not allow them to play on that side of the verandah. We have a \$1000 outdoor setting/table that we can not use as its covered in a thick layer of black dust. We are unable to open any windows on the southern side of our house or inside of the house gets peppered with dust. We can't even take advantage of a nice southerly breeze to relieve us from the current hot conditions as our house becomes a dustbowl. Our air conditioner is on continuously and we even had to install a second one so the main one could cope. Therefore, our electricity bills are now reaching the \$800-\$900 mark a quarter. Our water filters need replacing 12 months earlier than is the average filter life. We recently had to have a new water filter posted to us and had to purchase drinking water in the interim as our tap water is not fit for consumption without the filter. During this period our children's bath water and shower water was nothing short of filthy.
- Our closest neighbour also brought up the point of being ignored for over 8 months when she requested an independent noise assessment for her property. As I've raised above we too have been ignored when attempting to get external assessments done for noise or dust by the Department of Planning & Environment.
- When my children play outside, they are covered in dust (from the shed and verandahs), as well as all of their outdoor toys. I will be booking my son Boston and partner Brendan in shortly to our local doctor to be assessed for asthma as my son is short of breath when playing and has a constant dry cough. Brendan has also become more reliant on his asthma puffer of late. We have been staying in Anna Bay for holidays recently and neither Brendan, nor Boston have any shortness of breath or asthma related symptoms. Another point regarding health that was raised at the public meeting, was how air quality can affect birth weights of babies. We are currently pregnant with our third child and this point is alarming to say the least! I have also attached some pictures of the dust damage that is constant on the southern side of our house, our sheds and

some internal pics from inside the house (southern side) to give you an indication of the levels we are living with daily.

- All properties that have been up for sale surrounding our property have been purchased by the mines for biodiversity offsets. What we can't understand is how they have purchased them but continue to overlook us? Especially when our property is closer to the proposed project than those that have been purchased. Our property is surrounded by mines on 3 boundaries with Gary and Debbie Pevy being the remaining boundary. Being surrounded by mine owned land and having Wambo and the proposed United project in close proximity, will decrease the value of our property significantly and possibly make it impossible for us to sell in the future. Leaving us with a stranded asset like many of our neighbours.

In conclusion, there are many benefits of this project and we support these aspects 100%. One aspect we do not support is the limited acquisition that the project has offered to residents in close proximity. Considering the profit margins the joint venture has forecasted, our property purchase would be a tiny outlay for such a profitable project. Many residents in our vicinity are extremely concerned about their health, stock health (horses in particular) and diminishing outdoor lifestyle. It is our request that you hugely consider our chance at a better lifestyle for our young family and our request for acquisition. Our wish is to raise our children in a healthy environment.

Thank you for your time,

Chantelle LeBrocq & Brendan Baker

Sincerely,

Chantelle LeBrocq

















⚠️
• Open hood before lighting BBQ
• When cooking with the hood closed,
do not exceed temperature of 250°C





NO. 106580
AS2169-2006
T.M. 7-95
F.W. 8.35
W.G. 24.60
T.P. 3.33
TEST DATE 5-1-00
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