DARTBROOK MOD 7 LEGAL SUBMISSIONS HUNTER THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION INC

Ballanda Sack Special Counsel



PLANNING ENVIRONMENT VALUATION



Preliminary Legal Issues

- This is a proposal for a different project than that contemplated by the current consent:
 - The proposal is constrained by the terms of the Application
 - The Application must be assessed in its current context not by reference to a past and unusable approval
- There is not sufficient credible information to assess its impacts





Project Context

- "the public interest is a mandatory consideration ... under s 75W ... and requires consideration of relevant ESD principles"
- Project's rural and scenic landscape context
 - Mining SEPP: existing, approved and preferred land uses in the vicinity and their compatibility with mining
 - Importance of community views in identifying landscape character and preferred land use



Cumulative Impacts

successive, incremental and combined impacts (both positive and negative) on society, the economy and the environment

Mine	2014 Production (Mt)	2022 Permitted (Mtpa)
Muswellbrook Mine	1.39	2
Mangoola	11.26	13.5
Mt Arthur Open Cut	25.74	32
Bengalla	10.69	15
Mt Pleasant	-	10.5
TOTAL	49.08	73





Social and Indirect Impacts

- Social impacts:
 - Dust, particulate, noise and lighting impacts have the potential to affect people's wellbeing – even where impact criteria not exceeded
 - Displacement impacts of acquisition & actual or perceived loss of value in land
 - Value of "culture", community and sense of place. Changes in "place" can trigger distress
- ESD, indirect impacts and relevance of climate change and GHG



Benefits and Impacts

- Need for a qualitative assessment
- The asserted economic benefit is overstated and improbable (contingent on unproven and unreliable assumptions).
- The many adverse impacts to local community, region and NSW/Australia are real and significant (and underestimated and under valued by the proponent)
- Approval of the proposal is contrary to the public interest and the principles of ESD

