

63 Katanna Road
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NSW 2560

Submission into the Southern Coalfields

I would like to submit 'The Effects of Longwall Mining' film as part of our submission and would like to be able to speak at the hearing in September. Although there are many issues relating to the coal mining industry, the following are just a few:

- Air quality
- Mining water quality
- Noise
- Transport
- Effects on the rivers and creeks caused by subsidence
- Effects on houses caused by subsidence
- Emplacement area (reject coal)
- Gases (from disturbance of sub strata)
- Salinity
- Mine plan layout
- Profit over environment
- Green house effect

The DVD is divided into four films; the Plughole was taken late December 2002, when BHP-Billiton went under the Georges River downstream of Marhneys Hole. The second film is of The Slot where money was spent to help save a rock bar from severe cracking. Some believe this worked others believe that the damage to Marhneys Hole was far too high a price to pay.

I would also like to speak about the Emplacement area (dumping of reject coal). This should never be allowed to take place in a pristine creek (by definition creek that was not disturbed before mining took place in that area), as this must be the only industry allowed to dump their rubbish in this fashion. This practice must be stopped.

Your attention is drawn to the statement from the ex Minister, Kerry Hickey in the opening of "New approval process for the mining subsidence"

"The community no longer accepts that its environment and amenity will diminish significantly as a result of mining – nor should they"

Thus far there has been two stages to the emplacement area at Westcliff, with a further stage being proposed now, and will go on public display shortly. The dumping of reject coal in this manner has caused problems in the past and I see no reason why they will not continue in the future.

The damming of Brennen's Creek has stopped the flow into the Georges River and when the dam overflows, salinity and other forms of pollutants from the area has caused the river to turn black, with obvious damage to aquatic fauna and flora,

including fish kills, removal of native bush land has occurred in the past and will again if stage 3 is allowed.

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I assume other community members will talk about how the river was before mining. Downstream at Wedderburn Gorge the area was used for picnics and swimming. . Even in the 1980's there was a report stating that Wedderburn Gorge was a well known place for family picnics, just like Marhneys Hole. There is great belief that the non flow of the major Brennen's Creek line has had series consequences for the health of the river

When Brennen's Creek Dam was installed the code of ethics towards the environment was not as educated as it is today, and we hope that today it would not be allowed. Then there was a pristine creek with a 300 meter deep gully and about 4kms long, (before it reaches the Georges River). The old style of mining took years to fill the first stage of the emplacement area, but with today's technology, coal production increased, profits increased and so did reject into the emplacement area. Now reject is being trucked from the huge Dendrobium Mine along with reject from Appin and West Cliff Mines and the area is like a glacier on the move all of the time. Nothing seems to stop this black mass moving slowly down this once pristine creek simply because it is the closest and cheapest place to dump the reject.

Stage three has been identified as having rare plants and the broad headed snake present as with most plants that grow in the wild, they only grow there because that part of nature suits their species needs and so by changing the geographic design of the area it will greatly change the home of our native wildlife. This should not be allowed to happen and we hope that this review will stop any further use of the catchment for the dumping of reject coal.

Like councils and governments around the country rubbish is a major concern as the old way of dumping is not acceptable any more .In fact Sydney's rubbish will soon be transported to Goulburn, in the meantime we are all being asked to do our bit to recycle and although I presume mining companies reduce their waste as much as possible, there must be still room for improvement.

Once area three has been filled where will future reject be dumped? I believe mining will continue after this and a place will need to be found. As approximately 70% of coal extracted from the ground is used it is very hard to believe that returning the remainder back underground is not within the realms of mining companies. It was only a few years ago when they said that leaving coal blocks under rivers was uneconomical and would stop mining. It is madness to fill pristine creeks and it is up to governments to stop this practice.

The enormity of the area to be destroyed is devastating and although it is done in stages once seen, with each follow up visit one is amazed at how quickly the reject coal fills up the area.

I would like to be on the inspection party when the committee visits the
emplacement area.

Yours faithfully,

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Cumulative effects on the Georges River
(Tuggarah Creek)
Between Cataract Scout Camp and the Woolwash

A short power point presentation
pollution, mining, sedimentation
urban runoff and future
hazards to the river

An outline of the presentation I
would like to talk about at the
Inquiry into the southern coalfields

By Patricia Durman

**THIS WILL BE A POWER POINT
PRESATION**
