

22/12/2013

7 ramsay st  
anglesea

3230

dear sir/madam

i apologise for my tardiness in submitting this letter but would beg your indulgence to include what i have to say in your deliberations.

i have a unique relationship with the locale in which alcoa operates the coal mine and power station which are the subject of your current consideration. i have witnessed the truth of the uncontained dust & coal particulate emissions from the mine on a daily basis for the last 9 years in my role as a fire spotter stationed at peters hill fire tower.

these emissions are much worse than any documents will indicate to you and any seasoned firefighter will tell you that the "non existant" coal dust that coats the trees both within and without the lease area makes them almost impossible to extinguish when involved in fire. it is a well known rite of passage for any new fire manager to the area to experience the helpless feeling as his/her carefully planned controlled burn rapidly overwhelms the resources assembled which would be quite sufficient in 'normal' country.

i would urge you to investigate further amongst local lore for some glimpses of what continued operation of the mine will subject the growing population of anglesea to. my youngest son, who has never lived anywhere but anglesea, has a lifelong chest condition despite there being absolutely no family history on either side of any tendency to respiratory illness.

i know you have strict guidelines to your particular remit in this case which i am not necessarily addressing directly but any measure of alcoa's capacity to operate the mine in a safe manner will be flawed if nobody asks those who live with this legacy of a different age what it actually entails in the real world to have hundreds of tonnes of dust and coal heaped onto our homes, through our windows and into every breath we take.

thank you for taking the time to read this.

yours sincerely  
simon hawkins  
[shawkins@exemail.com.au](mailto:shawkins@exemail.com.au)