

Monday, 3 November 2014

Submission to Senate Enquiry to investigate certain aspects of Queensland Government  
Administration related to Government Affairs  
W&L Dahlheimer

Dear Committee members,

We are making this submission on behalf of our family living on 474 Ha Property  
at Brigalow.

Please accept this as a submission to the Select Committee on Certain Aspects of Queensland  
Government Administration related to Commonwealth Government Affairs.

I would like to advise the Committee about the failures of the Qld Government to properly control or  
regulate coal mining and associated infrastructure in Qld, and the negative impacts that is having on  
people, communities and the environment.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

We have lived here for 27 years.

We were never consulted regarding the development of the mine or the power house or the fly ash  
bunker.

We have two MDLs across our property, MDL 335 comes to within about 300 metres of our house.  
We also have an Arrow Tenement over our property.

In 1994 we objected against the mine. The Objection was deemed not legitimate because it was  
written by hand and not on the official form. We do know others in a similar format were accepted.

We were told by the CS Energy Managers to not make official complaints and they would try to sort  
things out.

We have discussed our problems with: Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Department of  
Environmental and Heritage Protection, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, Mayor Ray  
Brown, Senator O'Sullivan, Howard Hobbs MP, Premier Campbell Newman, Deputy Premier Jeff  
Seeney, Mark McCardle, Tim Nicholls.

While they listen to our plight, no actual action has been taken to put an end to our trauma.

However, a conversation with CS Energy CEO Martin Moore led us to believe that should we get a  
letter from the Valuer General saying specifically that CS Energy operations were the cause of our  
unimproved property devaluation, he would put our case for property purchase before the board. In a  
phone call on 22/10/14 he now says that he is going to use (FOI) as he believes that the Valuer  
General may not be qualified to make their determination on our property. What effect might that  
have on every property valuation done in the past.

Also, regarding the pollution in our pumping site in the river, the DEHP is now suggesting that the bad  
contamination of algae may have been caused by cattle droppings. Cattle do not water at this hole as  
the banks are very steep. Over one hundred head were watering downstream where very little algae  
was detected. To our knowledge DEHP has still done no testing near our property since we raised  
our concerns.

Because of the State owned Kogan Creek Power Station, Coal Mine and Fly Ash Bunker all within 3  
km of our property we have suffered a great deal of trauma.

25 October 2014

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The direct effects of the method of the Government has on managing the State owned mine, power station and ash fly bunker are summarised below.

- Both of us suffering health effects directly from the effect of the plant on our air, dust, water, and noise.
- Our house is constantly covered in a film of dust from the coal and fly ash in the air
- Our original pump site from the river is polluted to extraordinary levels where we needed to move our pumping location to a significant distance down stream.
- We have had to engage at our own cost a specialist to undertake environmental testing at our home and river.
- The fly ash bunker was built in the middle of a significant flood way between the Condamine River and Kogan Creek causing the loss of 2/5 of the flood way, directly causing a greater volume at a greater velocity of flooding to cause significant erosion and weed infestation on our property. To the point where we cannot use some of our best cropping land for fear of loss and damage by flood.
- Our previously manageable property is now massively infested with weeds and other pests.
- The Valuer General within a matter of weeks was able to devalue our property directly due to the influence of the Mine and Power station, however, no other party, CS Energy or other government department has been able to over 5 years resolve our problem.
- We are unable to sell our property which was to be our retirement fund (we are both now in our 60s and 70s) and because of the mine are now having to work way passed our retirement with a devalued property, damaged property, damaged health, damaged business with no future and no resolution.
- Numerous other properties have already been purchased by CS Energy, some on the opposite side of our property from the power house and mine, our property is the only one close to the power house and mine.
- We must move our livestock before blasting. The most recent blast left Lynne with numb tongue and lips within 1 hour of the blast. Also the leaves fell from the Pepperina Trees 2 days later.
- We are unable to plan ahead because of blasting and possible time changes. Moving stock unnecessarily interferes with our business practice and causes danger to us and our stock.
- This also interferes with our social life. Blasting occurs on Saturdays, therefore we are frequently unable to attend functions. Once Bill was unable to do cattle judging at the Dalby Show (a part of our business). On some occasions the blasting has been put back for a week, more inconvenience. We understand that no matter what happens we should be here at the blasting incase something does go wrong.
- Our fences rust within 25% of their normal life span, our gutters are rusting out 10 years after being replaced.

We would be happy to provide the Committee with further details if requested.

Sincerely

Bill and Lynne Dahlheimer