



**muswellbrook
shire council**

Enquiries
Please ask for
Direct Craig Flemming
Our reference 02 6549 3775
Your reference 140.000

16 December 2009

**Brad Mullard
Director Minerals Maitland
Industry and Investment NSW
PO Box 344,
Hunter Region Mail Centre NSW 2310**

Dear Mr Mullard,

Exploration Lease Applications Spur Hill (ELA 3787) and the Yarrawa area (ELA 3786) and the Ridgeland Coal Exploration Area

Council has received notification that the Exploration Lease Applications ELA 3787 and 3786 for the Spur Hill and Yarrawa areas respectively are being processed by the former Department of Primary Industries, and further that the Expressions of Interest for the Ridgeland Coal Exploration Area has closed.

Council would like to express its concerns over the merits of proposed coal mining in these areas with particular reference to the potential to significantly impact the town of Denman, the surrounding National Parks and the ever increasing mining footprint on the Shire as a whole.

It is considered that the extension of mining activities into these areas will threaten basic living amenity for the town of Denman being located within 2 kilometres from the Spur Hill Exploration Lease Area. The town has developed a thriving tourist industry which would be severely impacted by coal extraction operation in such close proximity.

The Yarrawa proposal is also in close proximity to Denman while also potentially impacting on the surrounding National Park. The Ridgeland area covers a large area that includes a variety of agricultural interests as well as established biodiversity values.

It is considered that the impacts of developing coal mining in these areas will have an overall adverse impact on the shire as a whole, increase cumulative impacts on air and water quality and visual amenity as well as social impacts through depleting industrial diversity and further reducing rural land use pursuits.

Yours faithfully


Steve McDonold
General Manager

Muswellbrook Shire Council ABN 86 864 180 944

Address all communications to The General Manager Mail PO Box 122 Muswellbrook NSW 2333 Phone 02 6549 3700
Fax 02 6549 3701 Email council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au Web www.muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au