

Dean, Julie (DEM)

From: James Price <james@nrgadvertising.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 5 September 2019 2:34 PM
To: DEM:Mining Reg Rehab
Subject: Bird In Hand Mine Proposal

To Whom It May Concern

We own a small farm at Woodside not much more than a kilometre from the proposed Bird in Hand mine site. We are registered for 16 horses and have invested substantially to produce premium quality pasture for both our own competition horses and race horse industry agistment.

Water is a precious and increasingly scarce resource, and one that we are highly dependent on to enable us to grow the feed required for year-round production. We have invested heavily in irrigation infrastructure and had to jump through a multitude of regulations to secure our water licence. Not much more than a decade ago water was free if you could get it out of the ground, now is highly regulated and is charged per the megalitre.

It is commonly understood that most of Woodside's water comes from a fragile network of underground aquifers which could be irreversibly damaged through underground blasting, tunnelling and drilling. This would affect hundreds of local homes and agri-businesses in surrounding areas to the proposed mine.

Terramin's hydrology analysis estimates the aquifer will drop up to 20 metres. This impact will be felt as far as 1.2 kilometres away and will affect at least 30 existing wells, including ours. Our bore is already down 90m to reach adequate water quality, another 20 metres would likely make our property unviable. Our cored decision to purchase this property many years ago was based on access to the quality and volume of water supply. Altering such quality and/or volume of water will render current use redundant and seriously impact future land value.

Irrespective of the quasi science offered by Terramin in support of the mine and environment, there is no guarantee the underground aquifers will not be irreparably damaged or altered so that the farms, wineries and other agri-businesses are adversely affected on a permanent basis.

Terramin's proposal of re-injecting groundwater back into the local aquifer lacks even basic common sense let alone science, as once the water is removed, the damage is done. The delicate balance created over thousands of years determine the flow, volume and salinity of the water.

Even an independent study by CDM Smith shows that it is almost impossible to accurately model and predict the behaviour of underground water.

There are no doubt many other stakeholders in the area that have invested even more than we have, and will be greatly affected by this proposed mine. Aside from the critical water issue, there are numerous others, such as noise, dust, traffic safety, influence on tourism, loss of yield and productivity from farms, vineyards, nurseries etc.

It is our considered opinion that there is no compromise to this matter, the proposed mine should not proceed under any circumstances. For the marginal short-term benefit of a few hundred ounces of gold rewarding a handful of shareholders, the long-term impact on the local community and beyond will be nothing short of catastrophic.

The decision is clear: do not approve the proposed mine to proceed.

Yours faithfully

L.J. Price