

[An email from a mine-affected landholder in response to the news that historic Jerry's Plains is to be subject to more mining extensions (23rd May, 2008)]

If there is anybody [reading] from Jerry's Plains who would like a detailed history of what Peabody USA will do to your village community, clean environment, physical and mental health, property values and chance of escape, please contact me. Although they are too exhaustive to explain in an email, the impacts of Peabody open cut coalmine upon a nearby community are devastating and surprising in their apparent criminal intent. Such is the experience of my community at Wollar, North of Mudgee and 3km from Peabody's Wilpinjong mine.

What has become evident after two years of this operation is the original intention to divide the people in order to destroy the social cohesion by initial generous compensations and largesse to some individuals and groups – but only a few. Following the commencement of mining, everybody will be distraught at the loss of sleep from mine noise, sick from the effects of round-the-clock, low frequency noise and infrasonic vibration. Everybody, including the school, will begin to consume lead, arsenic and a dozen other contaminants in the drinking water. This dust fallout also affects crops and pastures. Stock and pets show signs of stress from 24 hour noise and vibration. The traffic will increase, the air will become visably foul, respiratory illnesses including asthma will surface and the blasting gases including the deadly and cancerous nitrogen dioxide and sulphur trioxide will waft over the population and animals and gardens.

Some will be aware of the loss of mental acuity, others will be very stressed seeing their enjoyment of living at Jerry's Plain's totally ruined and others may experience the terrifying fear of actually losing sanity due to sleep deprivation and the effects of low-frequency airborne vibration upon the brain and other organs.

The mining company will lie about their emissions knowing that they will never be fined and that they will be backed up by the Dept. of Planning and the DECC who work to facilitate mining and prevent residents' rights to compulsory acquisition by the mine. Property values plunge and in fact properties become unsaleable leading to more stress.

At this point, the process is just about complete and any offer from Peabody to buy out a resident will not be conducted by compulsory acquisition but from the goodness of their heart and will be \$200,000 less than market value.

[Remember BHP have applied for 'limited open cut mining' within the Caroon lease. Experience shows they do not know the meaning of the word 'limited'.]