Pells Consulting

Dr Steven Riley
The Chair, Thirlmere Lakes Inquiry
PO Box 99, Picton, NSW 2571

Attention: Dr Steven Riley

RE: FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE THIRLMERE LAKES

Dear Sir,

As you are aware, this firm has done substantial research into the possible reasons for the low water levels in the Thirlmere Lakes, post-1996. During the course of our work we have been unable to obtain important data from Tahmoor Colliery. We have asked for information on several occasions but none has been forthcoming. Unless the Inquiry has already obtained the following from the Colliery we recommend that a formal application be made for this information.

1. Borehole data for all boreholes drilled by any of the owners of Tahmoor Colliery since 1976 in the area between the pit top and Thirlmere Lakes.

2. Mapping of faults and dykes within the workings.

3. Any ground or aero magnetics west of the pit top that may show alignments of dykes.

4. Interpretations by the mine geologists of geological structures (faults and dykes) extending away from the mine towards the west, and in particular such structures that may transgress through from seam level to ground surface.

5. All information in relation to the distribution of groundwater flows into the workings; in particular estimates of flow from the SW area containing longwalls 14 to 21.

6. Study by Australian Groundwater Consultants on the groundwater impacts of Tahmoor Colliery.
7. Data from Tahmoor Collieries' groundwater consultant Andrew Dawkins of GeoTerra as to the level and yield reductions in private bores above and to the west of the workings (I know Andrew has this information because he told me he had it, in response to a letter I wrote him asking for such data – but to which he was not allowed to respond).

8. Interpretations by Andrew Dawkins as to why certain bores (those of Shirripa, Dugo, Dalpra, Vella, Domizio, White, Scionti and Knopper) have lost yield and pressures, whereas others have not. These bore owners are referenced in a GeoTerra map in the 2011 AEMR.


Yours sincerely,

PHILIP PELLS
FTSE BSc(Eng) MSc DSc(Eng) FIIEAust MASCE

cc: Mr David Hunt and Ms Julie Sheppard
TCCC

Mr Brad Staggs
Wollondilly Shire Council