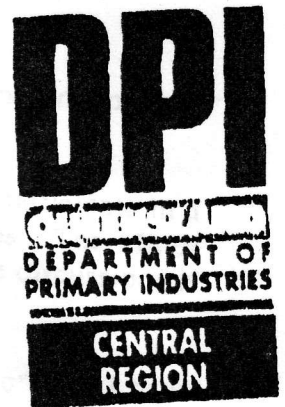


15th May 1995

Mr A Lucke
PO Box 70
MT LARCOM QLD 4695



Dear Sir

I refer to your letter of 8th May 1995 concerning water supplies in the Mt Larcom area.

Your letter raises several issues which I will attempt to deal with in this letter.

QCL Mine

I think it is important to clarify the roles of the Government agencies so as to develop appropriate courses of action.

The Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has the responsibility for mining operations including impacts internally and externally on the environment. The DME now has regional staff in Rockhampton to deal with most aspects of mining activity.

More recent developments in that industry include the requirement for mines to have in place formal Environmental Management Overview Strategies (commonly referred to as EMOS) and Operational Plans which deal with environmental issues specific to a mine site.

I have raised your letter with Mr Cliff Jones of the DME and he would like you to put your specific concerns directly to him as soon as you can. It is essential that potential water resource impacts are suitably dealt with by the mining operation.

The purpose of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in Water Resource Management is to secure the sustainable use of water resources. Therefore we have a vested interest in protecting your districts water resources and in particular any adverse impacts of mining. Given these objectives, it is necessary to maintain clear understanding and close liaison with the DME.

As you would be aware, the mine has been monitoring water resources in the area for a considerable period of time. We have only ever received one formal review and that was in 1980 prepared by the mine relating to review of the hydrology of impacts on districts resources. In response, I have requested (by 30th June 1995) such assessment from the mine through the DME and will investigate the need and frequency for these assessments and their distribution.

I must point out that it is not the role of the DPI to carry out water resource assessments in these circumstances as it is clearly the responsibility of the mining enterprise.

When received we will critically review the document and its conclusions and provide expert opinion to the DME.

I consider this will be necessary for the DPI to be in position to objectively participate in a meeting with landholders who are within the influence of the mines activities. The Mines representatives, its consultants and the DME should also be included in those discussions if any progress is to be achieved.

With regard to data from the mines monitoring program we have received to date, I have arranged for copies of typical data to be sent to you next week for your information.

You would also be aware that the DPI measures water levels in several bores apparently because of local concern at the time over the integrity of the mines data collection process. I intend to raise this matter with all concerned during this round of discussions because this DPI involvement is not consistent with similar projects. As our resources are very limited, I must be assured that this is still necessary. If the DPI needs to maintain that type of watchdog role, I propose that random spot audits of levels as being more appropriate.

I trust you can appreciate the reasoning I have outlined and the benefits in clarifying the processes which should lead to positive outcomes. In summary I propose the following action be taken.

1. You should immediately make a formal submission to the Regional Manager of the DME, Rockhampton (Phone (079) 314 120, PO Box 257, Rockhampton Q 4700) to the attention of Cliff Jones.
2. The DPI will review the requested assessment of mine impacts on water resources and advise yourself and the DME when the review is completed.
3. Arrange a meeting of landholders, DPI, DME and the mine to resolve any issues.
4. Any agreed actions be implemented.

I realise this could all take some time, with a view to holding a meeting before the end of July. Please contact me to confirm your acceptance of these arrangements or to offer practical alternative suggestions.

In the meantime if there are any specific matters that need to be immediately dealt with, please contact Cliff Jones or myself.

Water Resources Generally

I share community concern over the availability of water supplies in your area as well as the whole of the Central Region as the effects of the continuing drought worsen. As Resource Managers, we are willing to participate in any public discussion which has objectives of improved management strategies or knowledge of water resource issues.

However from my experience very little is achieved at general public meetings. Better progress can be made at more focused meetings where well defined issues relating to a specific interest group and location can be addressed.

On this basis, the mine related issues should be dealt with separately to other issues in your district.

Would you consider this matter and discuss with me your views on opportunities to focus on specific issues along these lines.

I apologise for this lengthy reply which I hope will help direct us to positive worthwhile outcomes.

Yours faithfully


M Clewley
DISTRICT MANAGER

Dear Sir,
My letter of 15th May 1995 concerning water supplies in the Mt Laramie area.
Your letter raises several issues which I will attempt to deal with in this letter.

I think it is important to clarify the roles of the Government agencies so as to develop appropriate courses of action.

The Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) has the responsibility for mining operations including impacts internally and externally on the environment. The DME now has a regional office in Rockhampton to deal with most aspects of mining activity.

More recent developments in that industry include the requirement for mines to have in place formal Environmental Management Overview Strategies (commonly referred to as EMOS) and Operational Plans which deal with environmental issues specific to a mine site.

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