EVIDENCE 71
TOPIC PC85A-D86A-B,87,102,114
SUB# Kura / Pla - Chouge
DATE 25-07-2017

MineWatch Northland - PC102 - Notes for oral presentation 25 July 2017

1. Introductory comments :
   a. MWN – formed in response to central Govt 'opening up' large part of Northland –
      i. Towards the end of their 2008-2011 term, the National-led Government opted for opening up the regions of Aotearoa to a new burst of hard-rock mining alongside on-shore and off-shore oil exploration. The first region being opened up, using an aeromagnetic survey of underground resources, was the bulk of Northland.
      ii. MineWatch Northland was formed in response to this threat. The resistance to mining took the shape of marches at Waitangi, public meetings in Whangarei and Whakapara with local and foreign allies presenting NZ and international evidence to raise communities' level of awareness about the effect of the dirty industry of hard rock mining – by now described accurately as 'toxic mining ' – and its specific risks at Puhipuhi, and wide media coverage of the same issues.
      iii. On November 3, 2015, soon after Evolution Mining Ltd bought the central Exploration Permit at Puhipuhi from de Greys, MineWatch ran a well-attended meeting on 'Tactics of Mining Companies' at Whakapara. Tactics alluded to – based on evidence in Coromandel, Australia and beyond – included the classic divide and rule tactic, the distribution of money, sponsorship of local communities, and compromising employment of local people. As it turned out, all of those tactics were tactics later used by Evolution. The manipulation of indigenous and settler communities is a key element of the negative impact of mining companies
   b. Focus of presentation:
      i. Not on quarrying and related activities, though there are some crossovers
      ii. Conveying the seriousness of hard rock or toxic mining – that requires these activities to be treated as a special case in the District Plan. Nothing like quarrying
   c. What we seek from the Hearing
      i. Restrictive categorising of hard rock mining in the District Plan
      ii. Noting that a lot of this conversation focuses on Puhipuhi, because it is the first location in Northland that was subject to an Exploration Permit – but we are using the specific example of Puhipuhi (as later submitters this week will do) by way of addressing how the District Plan might address hardrock mining in this District
      iii. To state the obvious, perhaps, the apparent withdrawal of Evolution Mining from Puhipuhi is only a temporary space. We need longer term responses, hence this approach District Plan – and not leaving it to resource consent applications. The baseline needs to be set.
2. The importance of treating hardrock / toxic mining as a special case
   a. International Disasters:
      i. Dean's photo of Rio Doce, Brazil – comment on the Nov / Dec '15 disaster:
         1. Including: well known Australian company BHP Bilton, not some fly-by-night or Third World scheme
         2. Evolution Mining could only say in their defence of the mining industry that the Rio Doce situation was about iron mining – they

could not answer the failure of the sequence of tailings dams at Rio Doce - such dams have the same risks as would happen with tailings dams associated with gold and silver mining as intended at Puhipuhi

ii. Naming other disasters, verbally – 4 major disasters per year!

iii. Not just the dramatic high impact disasters...

b. Ordinary mining activities, even in 'developed' countries, are risky

i. Tui Mine and Golden Cross Mine at Te Aroha, Waitekauri Dam – the risks of tailing dams

ii. Last week a US Geological Survey report was released. It concluded 74% of the major gold mines surveyed pollute water!! Also, gold mines always spill – 93% of the gold in USA comes from mines that accidentally spilled cyanide, minewaste, diesel, or other hazardous materials. And when gold mines happen NOT to pollute water, it is because there is no water nearby. (we note that Puhipuhi, in this District, is the wettest part of Northland)

iii. Dean: photos and one sentence comment on each of the 8 article-quotes and photos: THESE ARE MERELY ARTICLES THAT CAME TO ATTENTION IN A TEN DAY PERIOD EARLIER THIS MONTH – THIS IS SITUATION NORMAL, IN RELATION TO TOXIC MINING (appended at end of these notes)

c. 'Dirty industry'

i. High risk of pollution, even in dry areas like Australia – cf the Dee River

ii. Admitted by mining workers we have spoken to – by its very nature it's a 'dirty industry' – environmentally, socially

d. In Northland and Whangarei District:

i. Specially wet conditions in Northland, and especially in the area in this District promoted as best for gold and silver mining, Puhipuhi

ii. Australian miners we have spoken to, even those who have no problem with mining over there, say the one element they do not think they have knowledge about and that is highly risky is the wet broken countryside in this District.

e. Countering PR of Straterra, Evolution Mining Ltd, and others

i. Alleged employment and economic gains of hard rock mining

1. Limited gains for the Whangarei District
2. Australian Institute papers show damage to small communities, small businesses

ii. Environmental safety

f. High impact (negative) if and when risks eventuate

i. aquifers and waterways polluted

ii. failed tailing dams are not rare, with huge downstream effects

3. We also note:

a. Confusion in proposed version of PC102 about activities – hard rock mining gets lost in much of the korero

b. Need to separate quarrying from mining – definitions need clarification:

i. Core distinction between quarrying, where the vast majority of the quarried material (once the overburden is removed) is taken off site, and hardrock mining – 18 tonnes of ore per gold ring

ii. Definitions in the Thames Coromandel District Plan useful

c. **Hardrock mining needs special consideration and managing – with the classifications of 'prohibited' and 'restricted discretionary' being more widely used in the DP**
d. **Special issues arise in relation to hard rock mining:**
    i. **releasing and oxidation of toxic materials underground, into aquifers**
    ii. **Pollution of waterways**
    iii. **Ore needing treatment to separate the sought minerals from the dross**
    iv. **Waste ore needing treatment and safe disposal**
        1. **Onsite problems**
        2. **Offsite problems – traffic, dumping sites, etc**
    v. **The risks of tailing dams are significant – understated by pro-mining proponents like Straterra**

4. **With all that in mind:**
    a. **Strengthened approaches to exploration and hardrock mining in the District Plan**
    b. **We look at the useful experience of Coromandel – where Council, central Govt, mining industry, community activists, and the wider community have been debating the implications of mining for years**
    c. **We note the table (submitted) from the Thames Coromandel District Plan – some items still open to appeal, but mainly the elements of the table are operative**
        i. **Dean: put up table on the screen**
    d. **There are specific submissions we have made in the written evidence we have circulated.**
    e. **We seek stronger obstacles to hardrock mining in this area – the people, tangata whenua, neighbours, downstream communities, the waterways and harbour, the environment, deserve such protection**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ends //

Appended: From 'Ten Days of articles' (2 b iii above) – normal operation or closed mines:

a) New Mexico clean up:

Taxpayers will have to shoulder some of the costs for cleaning up decades-old hazardous waste at a shuttered mine in the mountains north of Taos, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday.

b) Cleanup of closed mines2 Queensland.JPG

Statewide it is estimated there are 15,000 abandoned mines.

Treasury official Adrian Noon told the Senate hearing that the Government had assessed the cost of cleaning up all the state's mines to be about $8.7 billion, and it held financial assurances of $6.9 billion, leaving a gap potentially for the taxpayer to pick up of $1.8 billion.

The Mackay Conservation Council's Peter McCallum told the hearing the real clean-up bill was probably more like $24 billion.

c) Economic effects1 Africa.JPG

The locals for years have been passive spectators of big corporations' plunder of their natural resources. They have no share of revenues -- all they get is some paltry CSR allocation which solves none of their problems. According to a World Bank Report, people living in resource extracting areas are usually the poorest, especially where the mining companies are not fulfilling their CSR obligations. So they take their destinies int

d) Economic effects2 Africa.JPG

"The introduction of mining in farming communities has worsened the unemployment situation in mining communities and the hitherto farming communities are COMPELLED to abandon farming to undertake mining activities mainly "galamsey" mining with its attendant environmental problems especially pollution of rivers." (Mr. & Mrs. Koranteng of WACAM, Daily Stateman, 6th April 2017 edition, page 7)

e) Ongoing pollution1 Odisha.JPG

f) Ongoing pollution2 Alumbrera Argintina.JPG

A court order has been issued for the suspension of the Alumbrera copper-gold mine in Argentina, Metal Bulletin understands.

This comes following news reports this week that a federal court in the country had ordered the suspension of activities at the mine as part of a pollution complaint. Glencore has not yet...

g) Ongoing pollution3 Nui Phoa Hanoi.JPG

The company violated mining exploitation regulations and had not drawn up plans for restoring the mined land as required in the mining licence. The inspection activity also found many violations on collecting and processing industrial waste in reservoirs inside the project's land.

h) Ongoing pollution: Mt Isa in Australia

Table 1 - Activity Status					
	Mineral processing	Quarrying	Surface mining	Underground mining	Waste rock/taili storag
l (A4, A25,	Non-complying (A25)	Restricted discretionary (A29)	Discretionary (A4)	Discretionary	Non-comp (A25)
l Lifestyle					
strial	Discretionary	Restricted discretionary	Prohibited	Discretionary	Non-comp
Industrial	Discretionary	Restricted discretionary			Prohibit
ıe Service	Non-complying	Non-complying			
ld	Non-complying	Non-complying	Non-complying	Discretionary	Prohibit
mercial	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibit
way					
strian Core					
ervation (A64)	Non-complying (A64)	Discretionary(A64)	Non-complying (A64)	Discretionary (A64)	Prohibited A37)
Space	Prohibited	Non-complying	Prohibited	Non-complying	
eation Active					
eation Passive				Discretionary*	
tal Living	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Non-complying	Prohibit
Density lential	Prohibited	Prohibited		Non-complying	
Density lential					
lential					
e	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Non-complying	Prohibit
rfront					