

Major Project Development Assessment Processes,  
Productivity Commission  
Locked Bag 2  
Collins Street East  
MELBOURNE VIC 8003

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter in support of EEMAG Inc's submission regarding unsatisfactory regulatory outcomes for landholders affected by East End mine's impacts. I respectfully request you to include my letter in your considerations. I would be happy to talk to you and have supplied our phone number.

We live 4.5 km from the mine as the crow flies. Our farm is in DNR's (1997) Figure 9 mine impacted zone of approx 20 sq km by 1991 and Figure 10 mine impacted zone of 22 sq km by 1997, and mine modeling consultant Dr Kalf's (2000) mine impacted area of 33 sq km. I joined EEMAG when it was formed in 1995 and am now President.

I have attached a copy of DNR's Figure 9 (dated 12 Feb 1997) and have coloured in green where our farm is. Figure 9 shows our property was affected by mine dewatering by 1991, but regulating agencies had not required the mine to assess and report water monitoring data for 15 years between 1980 and 1995 – in non-compliance with the mine's 1976 Special Conditions. So when we bought our irrigation farm as a successful going concern in May 1994 the extent of mine-caused water depletion was not known and we had no way of knowing what was in store.

The mine's Special Conditions have certainly not been promptly and effectively enforced on our behalf. Taking our case to the Ombudsman did not bring us a fair and just outcome.

We suffered devastating economic loss due to loss of our irrigation supply to mine dewatering not being addressed when we lost our irrigation supplies in 1995 until 2008 when the mine finally equipped a replacement irrigation supply. We had to obtain 2 Arbitrations from DNR&M, 1 in 1998 and 1 in late 2007, before this outcome could be achieved.

The mine drilled us a replacement bore in 1998 but refused to equip it until after their leases were renewed in March 2003, when they equipped it with a smaller pump unsuitable for irrigation. The replacement bore had sedimentation in its flow which can burn out pumps. From meetings with DNR&W hydrologists and EEMAG's expert limestone hydrologists Dingle Smith and Brian Finlayson in 2007 we now

understand that sedimentation occurs when the aquifer is drawn down and is often associated with a bore intercepting a conduit in a karst limestone aquifer.

An accountant's report undertaken in March 1999 assessed our accrued economic loss due to diminution of the use of our land and loss of productivity from water loss to be \$83,938. This loss was ongoing until 2008. This economic loss is not accepted nor recognized by regulating agencies or the mine and has not been fairly and justly resolved.

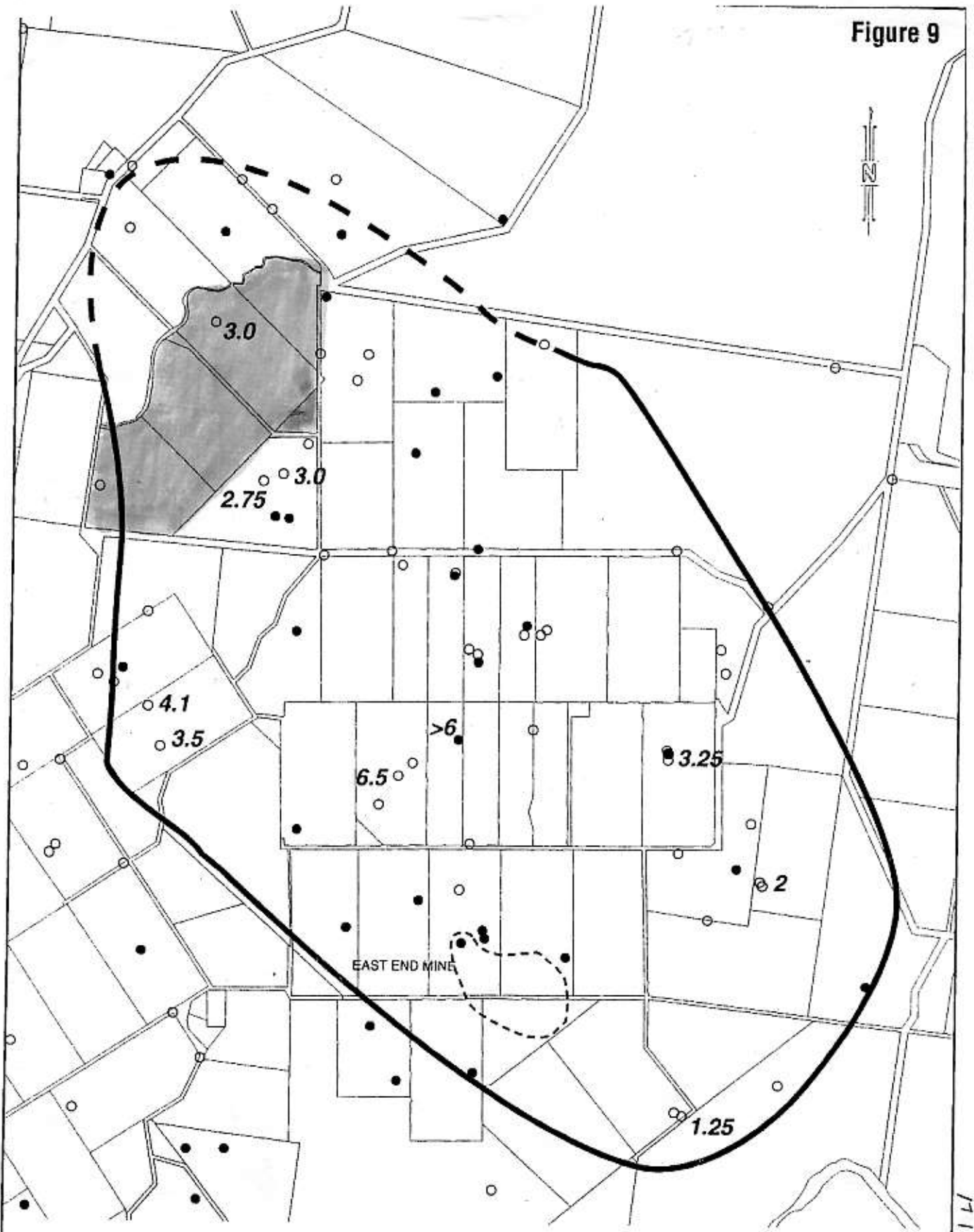
A professional valuation of our property undertaken in November 1998 assessed a loss of value of \$92,500, i.e. a loss of value of 30%-40% due to depletion of water. Loss of land values due to water loss caused by mining is not recognized by regulating agencies or the mine. The economic loss report and valuation were paid for by EEMAG in to try to get the regulators and mine to address our situation, as we were very stressed financially.

Yours faithfully,



ROBERT LASHFORD

Figure 9




LEGEND:

- Monitored Bores
- Unmonitored Bores
- 2.75** Drawdown (metres)
- Impacted Area Boundary

NOTE:


Bores outside Impacted area have zero water level difference





**RESOURCE SCIENCES CENTRE**

**Bracewell - East End Area  
Groundwater Investigations  
Mine Impacted Area 1991  
(WL Difference 1978/79 - 1991)**



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