

Michael and Margot White  
Boomery  
20 Yarraman Rd  
Wybong 2333  
18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Mangoola Coal Project**  
**Application No 06\_0014 MOD 6**

We **object** to the application for modification.  
Our objections are based on noise, dust, destruction of our community and destruction of the asset value of our property.

**Noise**

As we are already negatively impacted by noise from Xstrata Mangoola's operations we do not believe that an increase in ROM extraction from 10.5 million tonnes per annum to 13.5 Mtpa can do anything but increase the impact of noise on our home. Starting a new industrial activity of crushing waste rock on site will also add to extra noise and extra dust levels. The amendment to blasting conditions to increase frequency of blasting per week was not in any of the published modification materials. It was not in the Director General's Requirements and was not discussed at any of the stakeholder consultations yet it appears in their EA. We also object to this as once again it will increase noise and dust. Whilst we do not have the resources or expertise available to us that Xstrata had in preparing their EPA, we believe that the negative impact of the noise on our home and lifestyle is so great because the background noise prior to Mangoola's operations was that of a rural area. This is why we chose to live in this area. We have been told on numerous occasions by personnel from the mine that we are only disturbed by the noise as the background noise was so little prior to them starting operations. Therefore even though Mangoola may be complying with their license to operate re noise this does not protect us from annoying and intrusive noise. The lived experience is that we are regularly woken from sleep by the noise from their operations. We can clearly identify the clatter of tracks, differential whine, and the dumping of dirt from trucks or into trucks.

We understand that baseline levels under the Industrial Noise Policy are assumed as 30db. We also understand that actual pre-mining noise levels in this area were actually measured to be around 20db. The Industrial Noise Policy is not a reliable or credible policy to use to protect the real impact on residents living in green field mining areas. We therefore believe that no increase in ROM coal extraction, no crushing of waste rock and no increase to the blasting schedule should be allowed. The already experienced impacts will only increase negatively affecting our health and destroying further our rural amenity. We do not believe that Xstrata Mangoola can satisfactorily mitigate the impacts of their noise. Any noise mitigation methods such as double glazing or air conditioning are not compatible with the rural lifestyle and amenity we enjoyed prior to commencement of this mine.

**Dust**

We object to an increase in the rate of extraction, crushing of waste rock and increasing frequency of blasting due to the resulting increase in dust generation.

Since Xstrata commenced operation the dust deposition at our residence has significantly increased. It has made our gauzed-in verandah facing the mine almost unusable. There is significant distress caused by the amount of extra cleaning required to both the inside and outside of our home. The dust is black and difficult to remove. Walking on our lawn without covered shoes results in black feet. This negative impact of dust is experienced daily.

We are also very concerned about the potential health impacts of this dust. Fine dust now accumulates throughout the inside of our home. The side of our house facing the mine is coated with black dust and so are the roof and gutters. A written request to Xstrata Mangoola to provide periodic cleaning of mine related dust from our house has been refused.



**Black dust at 20 Yarraman Rd in roof corrugation valleys.  
The rag was lightly wiped in the guttering. This is the collection path for our drinking and house water**

Our drinking water is collected from run off from our roof and we are concerned about the change in the quality of this water. The water has become noticeably harder, requiring much greater amounts of detergent and soap to get a lather. Of course we are also concerned re long term health effects of drinking and breathing this water and air.

As with the mines ability to mitigate noise we have no confidence they can mitigate dust in a manner in keeping with our rural amenity and enjoyment of our home.

### **Destruction of community**

The community of Wybong has already undergone decimation with Xstrata acquiring many households. Homes acquired by Xstrata are left to fall apart or let to multiple tenants. There is an increase in traffic around all the roads in the area. There appears to have been an

increase in theft related to this increase in traffic. In this modification they are asking to increase their workforce by 50%. At a stakeholder consultation meeting at the mine site on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013, the General Manager, Tony Israel was asked about this increase in the workforce and he stated, 'won't have that many, just put that in just for "in case". Is Xstrata inflating the numbers to increase the supposed economic benefit of the extra jobs?

The community has lived with so much uncertainty around this mine. They have been operating for just 3 years and already asking for their 6<sup>th</sup> modification. There is an absolute need to protect the community from this uncertainty, so those of us who live here can get on with our lives and make our own plans.

Each time there is another modification to operations asking for changes/increases in their operation it causes great stress, anxiety and feelings of a loss of place by the community. This social impact is not addressed in the EA.

Coakes Consulting Social Impact and Opportunities Assessment while impressive is not science as it is still a subjective analysis. The weighting they have given each consequence against the likelihood of it occurring is still just an opinion. I hope that the Department of Planning when considering this submission give equal weight to the residents' lived experience.

In Appendix I, there is reference to only a few stakeholders asking for acquisition, and only 1 written request. I know we have written requesting Xstrata Mangoola enter into good faith negotiations to purchase our property. This request has been refused. However I have been present on several occasions when at least 4 other parties have verbally requested acquisition. It is our opinion that the Social Impacts and Opportunities Assessment are misleading and inaccurate.

We do feel a great sense of loss and sorrow that our beautiful home and community have been negatively impacted. Those of us who are outside the acquisition zone are left with a feeling of complete powerlessness and uncertainty about our future. This is extremely stressful.

### **Property Value**

We are concerned that as Xstrata have refused to negotiate with us to purchase our property we are left with an asset that has decreased markedly in value, if indeed we are able to sell at all. It seems grossly unfair that Xstrata Mangoola can keep increasing their profitability while individual landholders are taking a financial loss.

Any increase in the ROM Mtpa, new industrial activity of crushing waste rock, increasing frequency of blasting, or increasing the workforce ( traffic on the road) we feel will only exacerbate all the negative impacts which are the lived experience today.

NSW and Australia need to have a profitable mining industry and much good comes from the revenue and jobs. However if 'living with mining' is going to become a reality and not just a catchphrase the Government must legislate to protect those whom are negatively impacted.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. We strongly object to the granting of an approval for this modification for all the reasons stated above. Please legislate to protect the existing landholders before granting Xstrata Mangoola any further capacity to operate.

Margot and Michael White