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**(Name withheld), of Via MUSWELLBROOK NSW,
made the following submission on the project:**

Mangoola Mine - Modification 6 - Extraction Rate Increase



Objects to this project

Response attached.

3 July 2013

To whom it may concern

Re: Application Number 06_0014MOD6

As residents of Wybong we would like to provide the following response to the above Modification from Xstrata Mangoola Coal.

- i. Proposed increase in the rate of extraction from 10.5Mtpa up to a maximum of 13.5Mtpa;*

It is our view that the proposed increase in extraction and increase in equipment numbers will increase the level and frequency of noise generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators.

The noise that is currently generated by the Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators impacts on the wellbeing of our life.

The majority of this noise occurs between the hours of 6pm and 8am and with a young family the majority of our sleeping hours occur within these times. On an ongoing basis our family suffers sleep disturbances from Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators and we are required to put on fans, music and air conditioners on to mask the noise so that we can sleep.

Noise generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators impacts on our daily life to the extent that we cannot enjoy being outside our house again we needed to turn on radios or retreat inside.

The noise generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators creates an environment that exposes our family to high levels of noise and this impacts on our health and wellbeing.

ii. Redefining of noise mitigation area.

Mangoola Mine Mod 6 Vol 1 EA Chapter 8-16 Environmental Assessment presents the redefining of the noise mitigation area, potentially 673 Ridgeland Road will be located outside the noise mitigation area. At this residence we have had to implement noise mitigation measures such as replacing existing glass with 8ml glass in 3 of our 4 sleeping quarters and the filling of gaps. However we still experience sleep disturbances from the noise generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators.

On a regular basis we utilise the hotline to alert Mangoola Coal that the noise generated by the trucks and shovel/excavators are disturbing us, Mangoola Coal reports the following day that the noise is within its limits and they were not required to alter their pattern of mining.

One of the factors that is not considered in the Environmental Assessment is the frequency of the noise generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators. At times we have been exposed to days on end of noise generated and we are constantly informed that the noise is not exceeding the set limits. The environment that we are forced to live in impacts on our health and wellbeing and at times we have needed to remove ourselves from our home environment because of the excessive and constant noise from Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators.

The redefining of the noise mitigation area is of concern to us as residents, as it is our understanding that the noise reduction that has promoted the redefining of the mitigation area has occurred in the coal handling preparation plant. The noise that we experience is generated by Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavator operation.

It is our belief that the noise generated from Mangoola Coal trucks and shovel/excavators substantially impacts on us and the current noise mitigation area should remain.

iii. Increase in employment base

The projected increase of an additional (139) vehicles on Wybong Road raises concern for us residents as this is the road that we use on a daily basis to access work, sports, shopping, medical facilities etc

Some of these issues include the repair and maintenance of the road due to higher usage as well as the perception of safety on the road. A large proportion of road users are mine related, in particular employees who have finished long work shifts or employees who are commuting extensive distances to work. As regular users of the road we have witnessed various accidents due to driver fatigue ie people running off the road, a vehicle hitting Spring Creek Bridge these accidents or near misses go unreported and not included in the accident counts.

Associated road issues of concern is the regular maintenance of the road side ie slashing and rubbish removal and maintenance of stock fencing which creates traffic hazards when Colinta stock are wandering along the road unattended.

iv. General

The community of Wybong has effectively been halved by the presence of Mangoola Coal, this has had an enormous impact on a previous well established community. A large majority of properties have been purchased and long term residents have moved out of the community. In effect Mangoola Coal has impacted on the cohesion of the community as well as the availability and numbers of community members to volunteer for the few community building activities such as the Rural Fire Service and the Wybong Hall.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us on /

Regards

