

David Mooney
Project Manager
The Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Grantley Blake
"Blakefield"
Denman Road
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

david.mooney@planning.nsw.gov.au

XSTRATA Mangoola Mine Extension

Objection to Mangoola Coal Modification 6 of Project Approval 06_0014

We are a very close adjoining landholder carrying on a full farming enterprise.

Our objections to the proposed extension are as follows;

1. **Dust:** We live on the western side of the mine. When the westerly wind conditions prevail we are severely dusted during operations and blasting.
2. **Noise:** Mine noise is unbearable, especially at night. We can quite clearly hear noise from mining, washery and train movements, for example dozers and track noise.
3. **Lights:** Mainly from coal loader and mine vehicles running around with flashing lights. Some nights the whole sky is clearly lit up for miles.
4. **Drinking water:** Drinking water is unusable because of contaminated dust. We have been forced to buy bottled water.
5. **Management:** The management at Xstrata Mangoola is impossible to deal with. The management at Mangoola is only interested in their own operation and spin.

General history

The family has continuously lived on this property since 1909, over 100 years. Currently there are three Blake families residing on the property. In the last two weeks all six children that live on the property have attended their family doctor and were treated for respiratory infections. The children on the property are all aged seven and under with the youngest being two. One adult in the previous week was also rushed to Muswellbrook Hospital with chest complications. Mangoola mine is slowly making impossible for our family to continue living here.

Note: Our property **"Blakefield" is NOT for sale** at ANY price.

Mine representative response

1. Install first flush water drops: These were installed in the wrong places. Useless.
2. Sound test three houses: All houses were found to be in good order.
3. Solution for dust and noise issues: We have been instructed by Mangoola mine that if we stay inside our houses that this will solve the dust and noise problems. We are aware that if we see an orange plume after the blasting over at Mangoola to go straight inside and close all doors and windows.

We previously made a request to Mangoola to air condition the three houses on the property and supply drinking water, with Mangoola to supply, install and pay operating costs for the life of the mine. They refused.

Currently we are being advised by Mangoola management that the mine is moving further west and that we will not be affected by the mine. What a lie. There will be an increase in coal production, an increase in train movements, and an increase of work in the washery which is exactly where most of the noise is coming from. The mine may be moving west but the infrastructure will remain in the same place so please advise how this will no longer affect us. More of the same Mangoola “spin”.

Mangoola is causing all of our health problems at present, being the only mine on the western side. If the Spur Hill development goes ahead and there is a mine on the southern side of our property also, it will then be impossible to continue to live here. We have Mount Arthur on the north east boundary, Mangoola on the western boundary and Spur Hill proposed on the southern boundary.

Enough is enough. Wake up. These mines are slowly killing us.

I will front any enquiry and I am available at any time for an interview.

The request to increase the size of Mangoola mine should be refused. We reserve the right to add to this submission as more information becomes available.

Yours defiantly

Grantley Blake
Owner operator “Blakefield”
0408 279 138