

Matthew Riley - Fwd: Online Submission from Ian Brown (object)

From: Colin Phillips
To: Matthew Riley
Date: 7/02/2011 10:36 AM
Subject: Fwd: Online Submission from Ian Brown (object)

>>> Ian Brown <ianbrown@lisp.com.au> 4/02/2011 10:54 pm >>>

I undertook a conservation assessment of Leard and Vickery State Forests as an employee of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the early 1980s. Both forests are very important remnants of low-altitude native vegetation on the Liverpool Plains - an area otherwise largely cleared for agriculture. The vegetation types occurring in the forests, including the nationally threatened grassy box woodland, have mostly been eliminated from the area. Leard SF is home to 26 threatened plant and animal species. Since this proposal will destroy 1400 ha of Leard State Forest it is completely unacceptable.

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Submission for Job: #3562 Project Approval
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=3562

Site: #2081 Boggabri Mine
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2081

Colin Phillips
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Matthew Riley - Fwd: Online Submission from Deanne O'Donnell ()

From: Colin Phillips
To: Matthew Riley
Date: 28/01/2011 9:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: Online Submission from Deanne O'Donnell ()

>>> Deanne O'Donnell <hottdeanne@hotmail.com> 27/01/2011 10:01 pm >>>

Leard State Forest is an irreplaceable forest ecosystem in a degraded landscape. The 1385 ha of critical habitat planned for clearance will not be adequately replaced by species-poor plantings.

? Endangered Groundwater Dependant Ecosystems in the vicinity of the Boggabri Coal project will be damaged by water chemistry alteration and permanent water table-reduction of up to one metre. Cumulative permanent reductions in the water table of up to 2 metres are anticipated to result from the Boggabri Coal and Maules Creek Coal projects.

? Approval of the Boggabri mine will result in the imposition of large-scale mining. The proposed Maules Creek and Boggabri mines will produce up to 20 million tonnes of coal per year. This is larger than any existing Hunter Valley mine, and will induce significant social impacts.

? The Boggabri mine will destroy an existing carbon sink and produce 16.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. This is equivalent to 10% of all greenhouse gases emitted annually in NSW.

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Matthew Riley - Fwd: Online Submission from barrie griffithsSurname of north east forest aliance (object)

From: Colin Phillips
To: Matthew Riley
Date: 7/02/2011 2:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: Online Submission from barrie griffithsSurname of north east forest aliance (object)

>>> barrie griffithsSurname <bgriffiths@harboursat.com.au> 7/02/2011 2:01 pm >>>

We write to object most strongly to this proposed development to expand the Boggabri Coal mine. Approval would mean 1,400 hectares of irreplaceable remnant forest would be destroyed by open-cut mining. The loss of public forest, and of endangered vegetation community, and of threatened species habitat, and the threat to water table in the region, and in addition the huge contribution to emissions are overwhelming reasons why this development must not be approved.

One mine in the Maules Creek area has already been approved (Tarrawonga). This Boggabri mine has commenced but is now seeking a major continuation and extension, another mine is in the planning phase (Maules Creek) and a fourth mine has an exploration lease (Goonbri).

Collectively, these mines will open-cut almost half of Leard State Forest. Leard State Forests is an irreplaceable forest ecosystem in a degraded landscape. The 1,385 ha of forest that will be cleared, including 646ha of Grassy White Box, can never be replaced and neither the 'offsets' nor 'rehabilitation' can ever reproduce this unique, intact ecosystem.

This precious public forest will be destroyed forever for private gain. In total, it is estimated the four mines may destroy 5,067 hectares of native vegetation.

26 threatened plant and animal species have been recorded in Leard State Forest, including owls, bats and birds, and contains one of the largest remaining stands of the nationally endangered Grassy White Box ecosystem. It is also home to a range of newly-discovered and unique freshwater invertebrates that depend on healthy groundwater.

Farming communities and groundwater dependant ecosystems in the vicinity of the project will be damaged by reductions in the water table of up to 2 metres from the cumulative impacts of the four mines.

The Boggabri mine will produce up to 7 million tonnes of coal per annum, and the four mines combined are expected to produce more than 22 million tonnes of coal per annum. This is larger than any existing Hunter Valley mine, and will cause major impacts on local communities, their health, their way of life and their livelihoods.

The Boggabri mine alone will destroy an existing carbon sink and produce 16.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. This is equivalent to 10% of all greenhouse gases emitted annually throughout the whole of NSW. The cumulative impacts of the four mines are even greater and should be properly considered by the Minister and Department of Planning.

The Boggabri Coal mine proposal should be referred in it's entirety to the Federal Minister for Environment for consideration under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, rather than just referring the expansion and ignoring the continuation.

Public forests should not be destroyed for private gain. There should be no new coal mines, and no extensions or expansions of existing mines. When will we ever learn? When will decision-makers begin to act responsibly in the public interest?

Barrie Griffiths

Name: barrie griffithsSurname

Organisation: north east forest aliance

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Matthew Riley - Fwd: Online Submission from Marg McLean of Green Alliance Network (object)

From: Colin Phillips
To: Matthew Riley
Date: 7/02/2011 3:34 PM
Subject: Fwd: Online Submission from Marg McLean of Green Alliance Network (object)

>>> Marg McLean <green.alliance@hunterlink.net.au> 7/02/2011 3:23 pm >>>

This proposed continuation and expansion of mining that destroys irreplaceable forest ecosystems in overcleared landscapes and accelerates the extinction of species must be rejected. It is simply wrong. The Leard State Forest is public land that should not be sacrificed for private gain.

The Boggabri Mine must be considered with the other mining proposals and their cumulative impact on the local, regional and global scale.

The lowering of the water table of up to 2 metres is a significant unmitigated impact on not only the farming community but also the groundwater dependent ecosystems and their endemic microflora and fauna.

The local populations of the 26 threatened flora and fauna species supported by habitats of Leard State Forest would be put at grave risk by open mining of almost half its area. It is not conceivable that such activity could be mitigated. This largest area of remnant vegetation on the Liverpool Plains is refugia. It is precious, particularly in to our uncertain future of accelerated global warming and unpredictable climatic events.

The Boggabri mine alone will destroy an existing carbon sink and produce 16.9 million tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. This is equivalent to 10% of all greenhouse gases emitted annually throughout the whole of NSW. The cumulative impacts of the four mines are even greater and should be properly considered by the Minister and Department of Planning.

The Boggabri Coal mine proposal should be referred in its entirety to the Federal Minister for Environment for consideration under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, rather than just referring the expansion and ignoring the continuation.

The reality of climate change and the need to take action means that all opportunities to shift should be taken. The Department of Planning most properly must take regard of the cumulative impact of the four mines. It is appropriate for DoP to reject this application for modification.

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Colin Phillips
Mining and Extractive Industries
Major Development Assessment
NSW Department of Planning
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Steve Phillips
169 Parry Street
Hamilton 2303

Monday 7th February 2011

Dear Mr Phillips

Re: Boggabri coal mine (Application 09_0182)

This is a submission on the proposed expansion of the Boggabri coal mine (Application 09_0182).

I object to the proposal on the following grounds:

- Loss of precious bushland habitat. The mine expansion would irreparably destroy 1385ha of precious lowland woodlands ecosystems. This would include 646ha of endangered Grassy White Box woodland. I reject the notion that the loss of this invaluable habitat can be “offset” or “rehabilitated”. It must be protected.
- The Boggabri mine would produce up to 7 million tonnes of coal per annum. The downstream greenhouse emissions of this coal would equal more than 17 million tonnes per annum of equivalent carbon dioxide, which would contribute to the worsening of the current global climate crisis. The proponents of coal mines invariably argue that the contribution of their single mine is negligible compared to global emissions, which is a vacuous argument that must be dismissed. Obviously, no single coal mine will cause the melting of a glacier, or the formation of a category 5 cyclone. However, the cumulative effect of the NSW coal mining industry is a major contributor to global greenhouse pollution and climate change. Therefore, I submit, that the NSW Government needs to:
 - Implement a moratorium on approval of any new or expanded coal mines in NSW, including the Boggabri mine.
 - Immediately commission a study into the cumulative global effects of the NSW coal mining and export industry, including the climate change impacts.
 - Implement a “Just Transition Levy” on coal exported from NSW, of at least \$5 per tonne of shipped coal. This money should be used to seed sustainable alternative industries in coal-affected regions, and to offer voluntary redundancy to workers in the coal industry.
 - Begin to phase out the NSW coal industry, which is this state's single biggest contribution to climate change, with the aim of completely phasing out this state's coal industry by the year 2030.

I also submit that the Boggabri coal mine should be referred in its entirety (rather than just the expansion of the mine) to the Federal Minister for the Environment for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0437 275 119 to discuss my submission further.

Sincerely,
Steve Phillips

Matthew Riley - Fwd: Online Submission from Lynton Auld (object)

From: Colin Phillips
To: Matthew Riley
Date: 8/02/2011 9:27 AM
Subject: Fwd: Online Submission from Lynton Auld (object)

>>> Lynton Auld <lynton.auld@dubbo.nsw.gov.au> 7/02/2011 4:53 pm >>>

Leard State Forest is a "protected" Ecosystem, EEC's should not be impacted except in extreme circumstances where impact cannot be avoided. That is not the case in this instance. Where impact is unavoidable the requirements of the Biobanking Act should come into force and an appropriate area of high quality similar ecosystem be set aside (off set) against the loss from the development. Again that is not the case in this instance.

The Government needs to implement environmental protection and management consistently, where ecosystems are valuable due to scarcity they must be protected as vigorously as is possible. This appears to be the case in small scale developments, but frequently appears not to be the case in larger scale mining operations

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