

David Mooney - Submission Bulga Coal proposed expansion EIS- save Loders Creek grinding grooves conservation area

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Date: 14/06/2013 12:35 PM
Subject: Submission Bulga Coal proposed expansion EIS- save Loders Creek grinding grooves conservation area

Dear David and Roger

Please find detailed letter below re submission Bulga Coal proposed expansion

Please confirm our submission. A petition is being sent in parts from various people. Please collate as part of our submission. Please note we have sent several emails with scanned submissions from concerned community . Could you please advise in writing conformation that you have received 400 signatured petition (more to arrive today), the 58 indiviudal submissions (more to arrive today) and 4 emails with attached letters

thanks Wonnarua Traditional Custodians spokespersons- Natvie Title claimant group

Minster Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Xstrata Coal Bulga Coal Management

Part 4 EIS public comment response

Dear Sir

Opposition of the Xstrata Bulga Coal = expansion submission

Xstrata Bulga Coal Management is seeking Part 4 development consent to continue and expand current operations within the Bulga Coal Complex (approx. 12 kilometres from Broke) to the year 2035.

The significant adverse impact to Aboriginal cultural heritage if approved cannot be supported and we ask the Minister not to approve the project in its current form for the following reasons.

If approved the Project's disturbance footprint will impact an additional 1,924 hectares. If the proposed development is approved this will mean **that six out of seven conservation areas previously set aside and managed under the current ACHMP will be destroyed**

As traditional custodians we are opposed to activities which will destroy our cultural heritage we have lost so much and now through government processes we are losing more,

Of significant concern is the impact to the **only remaining Grinding groove sites** within the entire mine site at Bulga, We draw particular attention to the Loders Creek grinding grooves as these are very special for us.

While we acknowledge that planning a mine can be challenging planning an expansion which will destroy areas already known by the company as significant to Aboriginal people is not appropriate.

If the project footprint is approved -This will mean that Loders Creek grinding grooves identified as highly culturally significant to Aboriginal people will be impacted- While the mine states that they will relocate the grinding grooves to an alternative location- the result of this is destruction. There isn't an example of a successful removal of grinding grooves, - grinding grooves sites on the Valley floor are becoming more scarce due to the cumulative impact of mining activity and a history of approved destruction to sites of importance.

There has been a history of approvals to destroy Aboriginal cultural heritage through mining approval throughout the Valley.

Mining at Bulga has occurred for over 30 years and over this time so many cultural heritage sites and objects have been destroyed. Loders Creek grinding grooves need to be saved for the next generation Every time the mine seeks approval to undertake more impacts to the area the department approved further destruction to sites. The areas identified as significant have been recognised and set aside as part of previous approval conditions. These areas are never secured as the department then approves their destruction at a later date.

The Minister of Planning and Infrastructure is the consent authority for Part 4 consent determination under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and will ultimately decide whether to approve the planned mining expansion proposed by Bulga Coal Management.

The industry practice of moving cultural areas and sites and objects of importance to 'another place' or the lack of robust programs to management erosion and other mining impacts are poorly demonstrated.

We the undersigned are the claimants spokespersons for the Wonnarua Traditional custodians which represent the descendants of the Wonnarua people descendants specifically of

Emily mother of Henry Harry Taggart, Susan Bishop, Matilda Hughes, George Cain, Maryann Webster, Sara Madoo,

We seek a non approval decision for the current design proposed by Xstrata Bulga Coal Management which if approved will impact this cultural heritage site of high importance.

The area is identified as highly important to Wonnarua people. Our statements are included in the

ACHVA of the EIS.

So much of the Hunter Valley floor is impacted by mining activity and we are losing vast areas of important cultural heritage sites as a result of full development consents.

We seek government intervention for the protection of the Loders Creek grinding grooves.

Bulga Coal had to go around them last time....they need to do this again. Previous consent conditions should be maintained not forgotten and not dismissed

We the Wonnarua Traditional Custodians have forward a petition from concerned families and community (Aboriginal and non Aboriginal) we table our petition and will continue to apply all efforts to protect the Loders Creek grinding grooves.

We need governments to respect our culturally important areas,

We request the Minister please decide that the protection of our culture and heritage (saving of Loders Creek grinding grooves) should be a requirement of further expansion of Bulga Coal Operations. We ask that the Minister please provide in writing to all signatories listed on our petition and our letter as well all share this concern and anxiously await the Minister's decision.

We ask the Minister please carefully review the loss of conservation areas and the damage proposed and please as a minimum save and protect Loders Creek grinding grooves.

Yours sincerely

Wonnarua Traditional Custodians Native Title Claimant group spokespersons

Allen Paget, Kevin Taggart, Margaret Matthews, Gordon Griffiths, Tim Smith, Vicky Slater, George Sampson, Des Hickey, Luke Hickey Warren Taggart

Cc - Office of Environment and Heritage

[Regional Operations Group](#)

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