

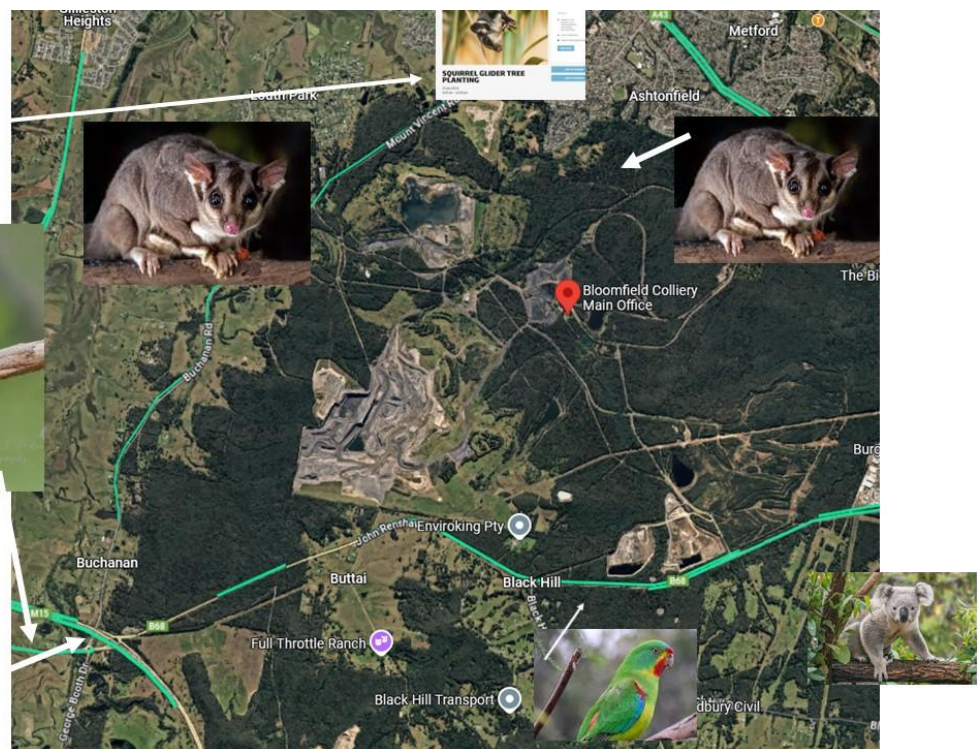
Michele Keith – 9 Moore Road Bolwarra heights

I object to the environmental impacts that the mine extension will have on our local wildlife and in particular numerous endangered species.

The Maitland LGA has been subject to significant clearing of Endangered Spotted Gum Ironbark Woodlands in recent years reducing our canopy, and the available habitat for our endangered or vulnerable species leaving our wildlife on the brink of local extinction. Species Credits will not prevent the extinction of these species. The documentation states that the further clearing of the woodlands for the mine extension will not have any impact on these species. Only the protection of their habitat will prevent extinctions:

- Regent Honeyeater – multiple sightings south of the mine area
- Swift Parrot – multiple records in the wider area of the mine
- Large-eared Pied Bat
- Grey-headed Flying Fox
- Squirrel Glider – know populations in both the Ashtonfield and Louth Park areas.
- Forktail swift -multiple sightings between the mine and Kurri Kurri
- White throated needletail – sighted in the vicinity of the mine.
- Koala – are regularly rescued from Buchanan Road and the Hunter Expressway near the mine and therefore are already under direct threat of the loss of habitat.

Maitland City Council is conducting tree planting to increase Squirrel Glider habitat is increased within 4 km of the mine extension.



Endangered species and their habitat surrounding the Bloomfield Mine Extension

This wildlife has NSW Saving our Species plans to prevent their extinctions. Yet these plans are being ignored and ongoing development approvals are creating increasing the threats and loss of habitat. Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*) listed under the Threatened Species Act 1995 require quality habitat of at least 10 hectares with up to 20 hollows in mature trees within their territory. The clearing of the Bloomfield site will restrict the movement of gliders across habitats, causing the loss of genetic diversity and the local extinction of Squirrel gliders in Ashtonfield, Louth Park, on the Bloomfield Mine site and to the south of the planned extension site.

Maitland City Council has begun to boost Squirrel Glider Habitat by instigating community planting days which are less than 4 km from the planned extension area. The approval of this mine will further reduce the Squirrel Glider habitat forcing them to extinction.

Clearing of foraging habitat is a key driver of population declines over the past 150 years of Swift Parrot. These birds are listed and the conservation of native plants for the purpose of supporting our declining endangered wildlife such as the Swift Parrot.

The Threatened Species Strategy 2021-2031 sets out direct actions. Conserving, restoring and improving habitat. The Bloomfield Extension project contradicts this strategy by the destruction of known habitat for 8 endangered species and numerous other species that inhabit the Bloomfield mine site and the surrounding areas.

The approval of this project will directly contradict the State Environment Planning Policy which states that its aim is to encourage the preservation of natural vegetation that provide habitat for Koalas and will enable their ability to free range over their range and reverse their current decline. The extension of the project will restrict their range, cause more Koalas to be killed or injured on the Hunter Expressway and Buchanan Road in the vicinity of the mine extension.

The New Global framework for management nature through 2030 states that at least 30% of land areas especially areas of great biodiversity are conserved, effectively managed, ecological representative and well-connected. The clearing and extending this mine is unacceptable.

Coal Mining directly contributes to global warming leading to rising temperatures and more significant weather events. 82% of global CO₂ emissions came from fossil fuels and industry. Reducing our coal consumptions is crucial to mitigating climate change and achieving our global warming goals.

My mother lives adjacent to the current mine in Ballydoyle drive within 5 km of the current open cut mine. Her house, veranda, concrete paths are constantly covered with fine black coal dust. I conducted a 20 min bird survey and recorded 13 species of birds. This biodiversity is under threat with the extension of the mine. The further expansion of the mine will exacerbate this airborne dust and potentially impact her wellbeing.

The expansion of the mine should be declined in order to protect endangered wildlife and preserve the health of Ashtonfield residents.