



I would like to state my objection to the Maules Creek Continuation Project.

As a near neighbour to the project who has had absolutely no consultation about this project, I find this a breach of due process that is not worthy of reward. It is also a clear indication of how this company treats community members who do not work for it.

This mine has a long list of environmental breaches and should not be provided with more approvals until it can prove that it will fulfill its current obligations.

The mine to date, has had significant and irreversible impacts on my community, virtually wiping out the local population and agriculture industry. When I walk the roads

around here I see dozens of abandoned and falling apart homes, in the middle of a housing crises. I see once beautiful irrigation properties going to wrack and ruin now under the ownership of Whitehaven. What I don't see is a thriving community benefiting from mining.

Seeking approval decades in advance is poor planning practice. Utilising the ten years until the current approval runs out to properly plan a transition away from coal and rehabilitate the massive land area now owned by Whitehaven is what our country and the world needs. Not an approval 20 years into the future for a company with such a bad track record.

I am devastated by the further impacts proposed, to the critically endangered species that rely on the Leard State Forest for their temporary or permanent habitat including; the Corben's Long Eared Bat, the Regent Honeyeater and of course the gorgeous swift Parrot that my painting above doesn't do justice to. This proposal will have a cumulative impact of clearing over 46% of the total area of what was once Leard State Forest. I have spent time traversing this forest and am disgusted that it can be turned into a coal pit that future generations will have to bear.

The financial gains from mining in our region have not flowed to our region. My son attends the local high school that tries its best, but is falling well below Australia's expectations for public schooling. Our health services are over prescribed and under resourced and our roads are still full of washouts from the last flood, especially Harparary Road, not far from Maules Creek mine and used by miners to go to and from work is worse than third world standard.

We have not seen the promised flow of economic advantages to our region and we do not believe providing another approval will change that.