

Wybong Concerned Landowners Group

c/- 20 Yarraman Rd

Wybong

NSW 2333

MANGOOLA COAL CONTINUED OPERATIONS PROJECT SSD-8642

Wybong Concerned Landowners Group is a group of 56 people on 30 properties close to the proposed MCCO Project area. Our diverse group is composed of young families, older couples, retirees, working and retired miners and farmers.

We strongly object to Mangoola Coal's Continued Operations Project.

Mangoola Coal's current mining operation should never have been approved. The local community was devastated and has suffered all the negative impacts from a quiet rural area being subjected to a large open cut mine as a neighbour. No benefits have come to our local community.

Our environment has been permanently altered. Our air quality compromised so that we worry about the long term effects this will have to our health and that of our children and grandchildren.

Many of us are subjected to noise at a level that awakens us, especially during the winter months.

Our properties have become stranded assets. Landholders are currently unable to discharge their natural property rights of being able to sell when and if they want at a fair unimpacted market price.

The many hectares cleared for the current open cut mine have damaged habitat for fauna and flora.

These are the effects the current mine has had and continues to have on us, the local landholders. We cannot state strongly enough that we do not want any further mining activity in our community. We do not think Glencore has any form of social licence to operate currently in our district and do not want them to have approval to do further damage.

We believe through our lived experience to date that all the impacts from this project will be negative for the local landholders. It will exacerbate the already dreadful situation we are in.

We have little faith in Mangoola's noise and dust modelling due to living here and experiencing these impacts first hand.

The topography of the area to the North of the mine has a large effect on the noise levels experienced. For example the Manobalai Hill bounces noise back over the valley.

The Mangoola Mine 2018 water take from the Hunter River was more than three and one half times more than the 2014 MOD 6 EIS worst case predictions for 2018 in a time of unprecedented drought in the Upper Hunter and the state. That modelling has clearly been inaccurate.

It is impossible to open cut mine without creating dust, noise, devaluation to proximal properties and the fracturing of community. All of these problems are impossible to solve. They can possibly be somewhat mitigated, however the result of mitigation is always a poor compromise. The right answer is to give no further permission to destroy more land.

Residents of Wybong across all age groups currently experience harmful levels of stress.

Elderly or unwell residents are trapped in their own homes as they are unable to obtain fair unimpacted value for their properties when they need to go elsewhere. People are being held hostages in their own homes due to the government's policies.

We have young school-aged children who are going to school tired due to being woken by mine noise overnight. There are teenagers who can't wait to leave their family homes so they can get away from the mine.

We have air quality in this area that is some of the worst in NSW. The Department of Planning should not consider that this project could be approved and add to this problem.

There would be no equity of benefits from this project. We believe through discussions with a senior Glencore manager that the net profit margin will be about \$40/tonne or a total net profit to Glencore of about \$1.5 billion if this project is approved. The only beneficiary of this proposal to create a new mine north of Wybong Rd would be Glencore and those that suffer the consequences will be the remaining survivors of the Wybong community.

Glencore with all its operations in the Hunter Valley should through natural attrition be able to relocate the Mangoola workforce as their current operation winds down, with no forced loss of jobs.

We do not want to leave our homes but we do want the ability that all other Australian home owners have of being able to do so at a fair and unimpacted price when and if we do want to move.

We feel great nostalgia for the wonderful quiet community we had prior to Mangoola starting operations in 2010. We mourn for the undamaged countryside that has been destroyed forever.

We ask that you find that the cost of approving this project is too harmful to the local community and environment, the already over-burdened air shed, and way too much for the remaining landholders of Wybong.

We further ask that the Department revisit conditions within the existing Project Approval to make changes to better protect our community.

The Wybong Concerned Landholders Group

23/8/2019