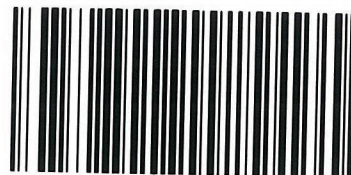


Please accept this Submission of objection on Mangoola Mine Extension SSD8642
I would have submitted through the portal if any body can get it to work.
Geoff Pettett

Geoff Pettett



PCU076843

Department of Planning
Received
25 JUL 2019
Scanning Room

Submission for EIS of Mangoola Coal Mine Extension SSD8642

I object to the proposed EIS and Mangoola Mine Extension on the following grounds:

- Reduction of ground water in the Wybong and Hunter River catchments due to uncompacted overburden. Even with best practice mine methods when overburden is dumped over tip face a fall of many meters of loose fill occurs. Although the miner runs equipment over the dumped overburden it still only compacts about half a meter at best on the top surface only. This leaves the rest loose fill that absorbs water at a huge rate all the while picking up crushed ground salts and minerals that were previously undisturbed. Plus due to the mining operation of digging a vast deep hole the contaminated water takes many years to fill up before leaching out into aquifers. Contaminating aquifer waters available for towns and farmers down stream. As a condition of consent the miner must assure the community and regulators that no contamination will occur now and in the future. For when the mine is exhausted and the gates shut it isn't the community responsibility to clean up their mess. For this is the case with Queensland's closed mining legacy (in 2012, the Queensland Commission of Audit estimated that Queensland's 15,000 abandoned mines are a A\$1 billion liability on the state. But in many states there are legislative black holes when it comes to managing the environmental impacts of abandoned mines. In Queensland, for example, neither the state Environmental Protection Act (1994), nor the federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), address mitigation of environmental impacts associated with abandoned mines. In 2012, the NSW Auditor General declared that "derelict mines may represent the largest category of contamination liability for the state". He also noted that the "derelict mines program has many thousands of hectares of degraded and contaminated land where mining companies abandoned mines without cleaning up or stabilising the sites." When a mine closes now, it's required to be safe, stable, non-polluting and have sustainable land uses. But regulations in the past were much weaker and community expectations lower, which has given rise to legacy of mines which do not meet today's standards. Abandoned mines are largely historic, have no clear ownership and rarely meet current community and regulatory mine rehabilitation and closure expectations. Australian governments and the community have become responsible for these mines' management. For example, the Queensland Flood

Mangoola mine legacy. It must be a condition of consent that the current miner, its subsidiaries, future owners and next land owners are totally responsible for Mangoola's legacy now and in the future. This will remove the huge burden on the State and communities. Now it's normal form for miners and agencies responsible for mines when contamination issues are raised to bleat "Prove it" and the resource poor community are unable. The Wybong Creek is well documented in it's water flows and quality and these are a valuable reference tool pre-mining. So as a condition of consent they must be added to the mines extension EIS as a reference by the miner to river and aquifers conditions. Then before mines end they can be assessed to state of the environment around the mine and if any harm is detected, remediation, rehabilitation or compensation can follow from the miner in a timely fashion. Well before they liquidate and decamp which is *normal worlds best practice*.

- The mine extension will change the dust affectation base line and foot print from the previous mine EIS for it will be closer to a major ridge line and further houses up the valley. As a condition of consent the miner must purchase at pre-mine valuation levels or like for like plus adjusting for inflation, plus property valuation increases out of mining affected areas, plus displacement costs and ongoing property improvements made to those who feel they are affected. Why pre-mine valuation is once the mine started no one wants to purchase mine affected lands so the value has gone down considerably to Wybong residents. They have taken the hit while the miner rides the commodities buoyant financial returns. These are not outrageous claims, they are very similar to the original offers made by Centennial Coal's Anvil Hill Mine which should be still applicable now. Different owners same mine. Although I can see the current miner will cry about cost and it's unsustainable and if this is so walk away no more to pay. Leave the coal doing what it does best, holding the ground up.
- The community and local fire brigade have been decimated by the mine. With an extension this will further community loss. For the miner can throw money at a local hall or fire brigade unit. But if there isn't anyone left to hang onto the fire hose it doesn't benefit the community at all. The miner doesn't release equipment/ staff to man the local bush fires brigades. Therefore it must be a condition of consent that they do supply staff and equipment to fight bush fires in the local areas when needed. They got rid of the community so they take over the job.
- In the Centennial Anvil Hill Mine approval many jobs were promised to the local communities and locals would be hired. Neither of these eventuated to the promises made to gain approval. For example: currently for employment you must be a local and to get around that rule the company accepts Muswellbrook P.O. Box numbers as proof of local, even though some

production employees come from Sydney and Singleton. This does little to build trust in the community nor handle fatigue management principals the company is required to adhere to. So it goes without saying as a condition of consent jobs must be local permanent residents and employment levels promised in the EIS must be maintained/ improved or mining lease revoked. You can't boast about jobs for everyone in the EIS then once approval given say the bickie barrel is empty. The miner will no doubt also cry about this condition but again if they can't stand the heat get out of the fire.

- Reduction of water flows and increased salt levels in Wybong Creek and Hunter River. Through the loss of the Big Flat tributaries and Anvil Creek that will be removed by mining operations. These while only being small assisted the Wybong Creek flush outs during flood events by removing salt and other contaminants. Both of these areas had big catchments and in particular the Big Flat was the subject of Land Care. An operation between State Government and local land holders to rehabilitate land and improve the environment. Money from both sides were put into this scheme and now with it to be dug up investors should be as a condition of consent compensated for the work they did that will fail through mining. They were looking towards the future the miner is totally in the present at next generations peril. Also as a condition of consent the Wybong and Hunter River must be monitored by the miner and relevant authorities as to its health and fit for purpose by end users down stream. If found rivers health changes have/ are occurring remedial action has to be undertaken by the miner immediately and notification to all stake holders.
- It must be noted that this application by the miner is an extension only, not a new mine. It is common practice in the mining industry to change old things to new by extensions. There fore circumventing the old rules and regulations for new more lax work practises and a better company bottom line. As a condition of consent the current rules and regulation the miner is currently enjoying transfer to the extension with any additions the regulatory authorities may apply. To assist the regulatory authorities presidents have already been set by Muswellbrook Coal. They have applied and were granted many extensions but always with the previous conditions attached plus additional conditions as needed.

Geoff Pettett 1339 Gloucester Rd Wingham 2429 NSW

- Notes (1) <http://theconversation.com/what-should-we-do-with-australias-50-000-abandoned-mines-18197>
- (2) www.abc.net.au/news/2019-03-19/baal-gammon-mine-leaking-contaminated-water/10914440



Toxic mine water contaminating creek system in far north Queensland, State Government says

Exclusive by Alexandra Blucher and Mark Willacy, ABC Investigations

Updated Tue 19 Mar 2019, 11:23am

A mothballed mine in far north Queensland is leaching toxic water from a new 'seepage' point into neighbouring waterways, according to the State Government.

It said the new leak was coming from a massive disused pit full of contaminated water at the Baal Gammon copper mine that sits next to a creek near the township of Watsonville, south west of Cairns.

Testing by the environment department found heavy metals including arsenic and cadmium in the seep water that was discovered after heavy rain hit the area in late January.

Locals are being warned not to use the water downstream in Jamie Creek for drinking or cooking.

"I would not have my kids swimming down here at all, no splash in the water, no bringing the dogs down for a swim," said mother of two Crystal Stone about a local swimming spot downstream in the Walsh River.

"It is very frustrating not being able to use this area... we live in an amazing area in tropical far north Queensland and here we are living right next to a river that we can't even use."

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) said it was unsure of the volume of contaminated water that it said had been draining from the outer edge of the pit wall into Jamie Creek.

"These results show elevated contaminants in the seep water and downstream in Jamie Creek including metals such as aluminium, arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, manganese, nickel, zinc and sulphate," a department spokesperson said.

Late last week the mines department cancelled owner Baal Gammon Copper's (BGC) mining leases for "non-compliance matters relating to the non-payment of outstanding local government rates".

The Government said it also moved to cancel the company's Environmental Authority (EA), claiming it failed to pay \$3 million in financial assurance used to protect the environment around the mine.

"On Friday 15 March, DES issued a Notice of Proposed Action to cancel BGC Environmental Authority," the spokesperson said.

"The EA may be cancelled as BGC failed to pay all of its revised financial assurance it owed to the department."

Baal Gammon Copper said the way the Government had exercised its power was unreasonable.

History of contamination at the mine

This new development comes after the ABC reported last August that government testing found water containing dangerously high levels of heavy metals had leached into Jamie Creek from the mine pit earlier in the year.

Landowners were warned by authorities against using the water in the creek and nearby river for drinking, swimming or watering livestock.

Gus Dyer lives downstream along the Walsh River and said he had not pumped water into his tanks since this January's rainfall event.

"It was a red murky mess, a big muddy mess," he said.

"It was disgusting, there was sludge all over the rocks... it's a big thick sludge.

"It's more than frustrating. It's our livelihood out here. We survive on this water."

The department said it was "doing everything within its power" to prevent contamination of the downstream waters.

"The DES has exercised its Emergency Direction powers to bring technical experts to the site in order to assess options to prevent the seepage from migrating offsite," the spokesperson said.

"A mobile lime dosing plant has also been mobilised to site, in an effort to accelerate the treatment of pit waters and improve water quality."

The department said testing further downstream in the Walsh River since January did not exceed Australian drinking water guidelines, "however, users should ensure that water is of suitable quality for its intended end purpose".

Company contests mine pit responsible for latest contamination

Baal Gammon Copper is ultimately owned by Denis Reinhardt and was paid \$1.8 million to assume liability for the mine in 2017.

Mr Reinhardt said there was uncertainty around the source of the seepage, which he called an "expression" of groundwater.

"The expression has been linked to old workings and also to a large naturally occurring high arsenic band of rock in the bed of Jamie Creek," Mr Reinhardt said.

"A similar band appears in the inner wall of the pit and discharges water profusely at times.

"It appears strongly related to high rainfall events.

"The Walsh River catchment is heavily mineralised and has many hundreds of old workings... it would be factually incorrect and malicious to broadcast that Baal Gammon is the source of the elevated contaminants."

Last November, the department launched legal proceedings against Baal Gammon Copper and Mr Reinhardt for allegedly failing to adhere to parts of a 2015 clean-up notice.

The court ordered the company to treat the water and release it.

"BGC intends to treat and empty the Baal Gammon water storages of the mine pit and the mine water dam," Mr Reinhardt said.

State Opposition Environment spokesman David Crisafulli said action should have been taken much earlier.

"I want to hold people accountable more quickly when things go pear shaped," Mr Crisafulli said.

Environment Minister Leanne Enoch said the proper processes have been followed.

"There's been notification, there's been legal action, there's been court proceedings, and we have to follow those rules to be able to uphold our regulations and legislation in this state," Ms Enoch said.

Topics: environment, mining-environmental-issues, pollution, water, qld, cairns-4870

First posted Tue 19 Mar 2019, 2:58am

Contact Alexandra Blucher

MINING LEGACIES

Images and impacts from
mining in Australia

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QLD

Mining took off in Queensland in the 1960's with the discovery of [coal in Ipswich](#). Mining in Queensland is recognised for tin copper and gold though coal, gas and oil also play a large part of the mining industry in Queensland. Other minerals that have been mined in Queensland include lead, uranium, silver, phosphorous, titanium, arsenic, bauxite, magnesium, molybdenum, nickel and zinc.

Queensland is also known for it's rich gemfields which is host to one of the worlds largest [sapphire bearing grounds](#). During the late 1890's the fields were mined commercially but they continue to attract a large number of fossickers and tourists.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines established an [Abandoned Mine Lands Program \(AMLP\)](#) in 2001. They claim that they spend more on abandoned mines than anywhere else in Australia and yet they have no policy or guidelines available on their website, no consistent accounting or reporting of rehabilitation works and costs. Despite the Queensland Governments current problem with transparency and accountability they have managed to repair thousands of abandoned shafts where other states and territories have not. There are however an estimated 15,000 legacy mine sites in Queensland of these are some examples of severe Acid Mine Drainage. Some of Queensland legacy sites began operation in the 1890's others are modern legacy sites having been abandoned in the 1980's.

The bond system in Queensland is based on a calculation of "expected maximum disturbance in the next planning period (1 to 5 years) as detailed in a Plan of Operations and unit costs for each type of disturbance (e.g., waste piles, tailings dams, tracks, infrastructure and open pits). A discount is allowed based on previous environmental performance as set out in different criteria for small and larger mines. Someone in authority or a consultant to the company must certify that the calculations are correct."

Recently there has been examples of sites where the AMLP have conducted work, but have not eliminated the pollution risks of [arsenic or acid mine drainage](#) (McCarthy 2013). As documented on this website there are many sites with severe pollution. In 2009 severe flooding in Queensland exposed the very serious environmental risks posed by legacy sites with pollution.

For more information on mining assessments and the publics rights to engage see the QLD Environmental Defenders Office [fact sheet](#) on mining law in QLD.

Arsenic pollution <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/arsenic-from-abandoned-queensland-mines-poisons-rivers-and-threatens-public-safety/story-fnihsrf2-1226687063817>

Brief History of Coal in Queensland – Dunne, E.F – Royal Historical Society of Queensland 1950.
<http://www.textqueensland.com.au/item/article/a9dc575a9d990d6aa9936819fc923164>

Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Abandoned Mine Lands Program <http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/safety-and-health/abandoned-mine-lands-program.htm>

7/22/2019

QLD

Managing and Prioritising Rehabilitation of Abandoned Mines in Australia <http://mines.industry.qld.gov.au/safety-and-health/abandoned-mine-lands-program.htm>

There are currently 7 rehabilitation projects through the DNRM

Mount Morgan Mine Rehabilitation Project

Mount Oxide Rehabilitation Project

Croydon (Federation Mine) Rehabilitation Project

Horn Island Rehabilitation Project

Herberton Rehabilitation Project

Charters Towers Shaft Repair

Gympie Shaft Repair

QLD EDO mining fact sheet <http://ausnukefreealliance.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/qld-mining-fact-sheet.pdf>

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Change of Details Form

Please print clearly to ensure this is processed accurately

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PAYROLL NUMBER:	SITE:	EFFECTIVE DATE:	

Residential Address		Postal Address <small>(leave blank if same as residential address)</small>	
ADDRESS LINE 1:		ADDRESS LINE 1:	
ADDRESS LINE 2:		ADDRESS LINE 2:	
SUBURB:		SUBURB:	
POST CODE:	STATE:	POST CODE	STATE:
HOME PHONE:		MOBILE PHONE:	
EMAIL:			
<i>(Please be advised this email will be used for confidential payslip delivery)</i>			

NEXT OF KIN/EMERGENCY CONTACT			
EMERGENCY CONTACT 1		EMERGENCY CONTACT 2	
NAME:		NAME:	
RELATIONSHIP:		RELATIONSHIP:	
ADDRESS LINE 1:		ADDRESS LINE 1:	
ADDRESS LINE 2:		ADDRESS LINE 2:	
SUBURB:		SUBURB:	
POST CODE:	STATE:	POST CODE	STATE:
PHONE:		PHONE:	

SIGNATURE:	DATE:
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