

24th January 2013

To the Director General & Minister
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Major Development Assessment
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

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Dear Sirs/Madams,

RE: OBJECTION to STRATFORD COAL Extension Project No SSD-4966

I Amanda Albury of Limeburners Creek NSW hereby OBJECT to the above Stratford Coal extension project and request that the Planning Department and Minister for Planning reject this proposal entirely. As the Government has approved the mine THUS FAR, then the mining and Government should PAY to put into place certain criteria for people being impacted by the mine already and compensated for hardship. The Stratford mine which should have closed down after their '8 year promised Boutique mine', just like Duralie Coal, yet Stratford Coal has been running now for over 14 years and Duralie Coal now some 10 years.

Like all good Government approved mining companies, they move across the landscape, bit by bit, hoping that "we the people", do not realise the full impact of their mining works and the bigger picture of total valley, mountain removal. Removing towns/villages, destroying creeks and river systems, removing bushland areas as is currently happening in the Gloucester-Stroud valley like so many other areas around NSW and Australia. Stratford Coal's intentions show from their exploration boundary they can be quickly turned into their mining area and will in time jump The Bucketts Way as per their plan on display and in this EIS should the Government continue to authorise this mine to continue in any part-there-of.

The mine boss of Yancoal tried to tell people in the recent meeting at Stratford Townships hall, that the mine of Duralie would close in 2013. The fact Duralie Coal and Stratford Coal are removing HUGE volumes of ground for little to no coal is ugly and SHOULD BE STOPPED. A mine tour will show the removal of ground (because they can) with NO coal present. Producing volumes and volumes of rock rubble which is being built up in mounds. The fact that both Stratford Coal and Duralie Coal have been currently approved until 2021 says it all, and the ability to keep putting in modifications after modifications to Government Departments happy to allow them bit by bit to remove more and more is MOST SHAMEFUL!

The Planning Dept. have always advised me when writing submissions against these documents that any more than 10 pages is long enough. **My Complaint:** - When in reality we write against THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS of pages of mining consultation documentation, where I question the Planning Department and Minister: - Is every word on every page read? As "we the general public are expected to read them all" and in the timeframe even with the extension through to Friday 25th January 2013, Planning was determined NOT to make that a public 'blanket across the board

extension' or take it to the 25th January is STILL NOT long enough to read the document/s and cross references, including all the attachments, sections & appendix pages. Even with the EXTREMELY shortened, summarised version of the Technical Overview, it shows itself obviously that SO MUCH INFORMATION has been left out of this booklet. Yet there is so much information we are expected to plough through in once again a ridiculously, and unfair set time frame system which ultimately is set up for the mining companies who have produced these ridiculous documents in the first place and the Government happily approving all yet not reading every word in their purpose built massive documents.

A letter to Chris Wilson dated 2nd November 2012 from Mark Jacobs Environment & Community Relations. It is very evident when looking at the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), that the three (3) volumes/folders of information is more than ridiculous and the information contained of their proposal is MOST ALARMING! The impact on Creeks & River Systems is obvious in the Manning Catchment Area to Taree, as they will literally divert, dig up these creeks and discharge into them. This water then makes its way to Manning River Taree (Taree's drinking water).

The entire project MUST therefore be rejected! Its too late once the environment is DEAD and Life Extinguished! Wildlife and people left sick, dying and dead from Government approved mining!

- 24 hour mining proposal should be rejected entirely! People are already being impacted and the disrespectful term used "receptors" which should always read people is MOST OFFENSIVE.
- The fact the mine is too close to Stratford Township, where some houses will be 1000 metres away or less from mine alterations to the road and or open cut impacts. Homes are already cracking with blasts and vibrations, the people already have coal dust inside and outside their homes, they already have coal dust in their tank water (drinking water) as they are NOT on main water supply their tank water IS being affected and these people SHOULD NOT have to pay to connect to a 'proposal of town water supply' if and when that should happen, the Government and mining SHOULD pay for all connection fees to every house hold in Stratford Township.
- Water tanks SHOULD BE ENCLOSED and water should be brought in at the expense of the Government and mining company causing the problem for these people in the first place by NOT having clean water. Even with a filter the water is black and has lead levels off the scale of the Australian standard. Thick black muck comes out of the filters, which need to be changed every few months or LESS, once again at the people's expense which should actually be paid for by the mining and Government.
- All homes in mining impacted areas MUST be fitted with Water diverters on tanks once again at mining and Government's expense.
- All people seeking assistance to purify their air in their home, should be given FREE the latest equipment, air conditioning unit and an endless supply of filters, because sadly these people will need them.
- Health/DUST: - The mine is already making people sick from the impacts of blasting, toxic orange plume blasts affecting people's breathing and Central Nervous Systems, affects on lungs from coal dust, sleep deprived, and unable to stop the vibrations entering their bodies

and through their ears, when they are AT THEIR HOME. This all continues to go undocumented by Government Departments and unpunished. Yet that DOES NOT MEAN IT DOES NOT HAPPEN. Heart attacks and strokes in the area of Stratfordcoal mine and perhaps even Duraliecoal due to the stress these people are under and the stonewalling and harassment these people suffer at the mining staff. I have been witness to this myself. The people I know personally who have survived heart attacks and strokes attributed to the stress they are put under as this Government approved coal mines moves closer to their home and property.

- **Dust monitors to reflect PM2.5.** This 2.5 particulate matter size is of most importance to be monitored and once again honestly & transparently and with full dust automated monitors, not the pathetic ones they use that have bottles on a stick where they also are completely open to the rain. It's the smaller particles that when breathed in can lodge deep down in people's lungs. Again it is obvious that Government approved mining companies ARE impacting people YET Government continues to SHIKE AWAY FROM THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES in carrying out transparent, honest and trustworthy health studies on people already affected by their Government approved mines or for people that are to be impacted by their Government approved mines, being at the expense of the Government and Mining companies, not the poor individual people having this forced into their town/village, suburb, home and property affecting them and their animals personally!
 - Dust and noise monitors are flawed. I have been a witness to blasts that have not happened, equipment put out and then taken back (after the supposed blast). Blasts that rock houses and shake their foundations and send domestic dogs over the high chain wire fence running 'blindly through terror', down the middle of the road to get away and luckily escaping being run over.
- **Blasting** is often done out of the time frame notification given to people. If a blast does not happen at the scheduled time then the blast SHOULD NOT commence until further notification with days notice before the next scheduled blast occurs. Currently this DOES NOT HAPPEN, they blast happen out of time frame taking people/animals off guard. There are those people who will leave their home when they have been notified of the blast, taking animals with them. Obviously if the blast is not done in the allotted and documented timeframe by notification, then people are caught and suffer the consequences of this being THRUST AND FORCED UPON THEM!
- **Noise and blasting affects can be done in 'real time' by talking to the 'people' already being affected** by the mining noise and mine blasts. Yet I am aware of NO study done by Government or Mining Company where the people's impacts are truthfully and transparently uploaded into the Environmental IMPACT Statement/Study showing that as people are already being impacted that is a FACT and any further mining will continue to impact people and therefore should be rejected entirely!
 - The noise produced from the mine already is affecting people's health and affecting animals, through blasting, grinding of equipment, drilling and lights from the mine and/or drills impacting people in their own homes. Noise from trains being shunted up from Duraliecoal to Stratfordcoal are already affecting people's health, sleeping, wellbeing, including the many export trains that run way past their approval times of operation.

- **Government MUST do transparent health studies** of people already being impacted. The fact you are NOT shows that you SHOULD NOT authorise this mine to proceed. It should be packed up; the entire holes filled in with the overburden dump and toxic soil/discharge water MUST be prevented from accessing the creeks and river systems in that entire area of 'Stratford Coals impact zone'.
- People are 'played by the staff of the mining company' and 'government departments including PAC'. As none of you are impacted then NONE of YOU actually want to therefore acknowledge that people ARE INFACT being harassed, intimidated, in having this mining industry forced upon them by your approvals.
- Stratford Township's Cemetery, where graves are being cracked from blasting from Stratford Coal is both upsetting for family members and very disrespectful. People have had to replace headstones and remove surrounds at their expense, which is both unfair and disrespectful of both Government and YANCOAL CHINA to these people being impacted.
- People's homes and properties are devalued because the Government approves mining companies to operate in an area where people are living, yet does not guarantee that anyone seeking to sell before, during the mining impact, they are therefore compensated FULL MARKET VALUE (before coalmine devalued homes/properties in the valley) and extra money for solicitors, removalist fees and compensation for being forced from their home and property by a Government approved mine. People are unable to sell properties throughout the valley from the mining companies being approved to take up control of this valley. Therefore anyone wanting to seel their property being impacted by 'what-ever mine' MUST have their property bought from the offending mine as a Government requirement regardless of when that period of time for the owner may be.
 - There is a local winery that has had NO success in selling the property because of AGL Gas exploration over the property and Duralie Coal mine up river. This is NOT fare and MUST be addressed and actioned as a Government guarantee that forces the mine to buy above market value with legal, removalist money on top of that to each and every property in any mining licence or mining exploration area where mining is now the one factor for stopping the property being sold. Sadly this is the ramification you have all left people in the Gloucester-Stroud Valley from Stratford Coal/Duralie Coal and AGL Gas, Gloucester Resources and many others.
 - People are caught in not being able to sell their property. Who would buy a house in proximity to a coal mine, gas mine, railway line that has coal trains blowing dust inside and outside their homes and in their tank water, blowing their horns, screeching their wheels, bumping their coal wagons, waking people up or keeping people from sleeping peacefully, causing people health problems and their animals, noise of blasts & mining equipment/operations? Would you buy one of these houses?
- The environmental Impact Statement continues to deny the existence of bushland being significant to our native wildlife. If you the Government continue to approve the destruction of bushland areas, and approve the major, significant, and numbers not documented deaths of Australian wildlife in areas you are approving for mining, life in these areas will continue to be anilated. Should you approve the removal as you have done in the Duralie Road, Cheerup Road area for Duralie Coal you will again destroy bushland areas and wildlife that ARE down

on the EPBC list. Once again bit-by-bit you approve these areas to be removed, they are being destroyed, and the wildlife that can't jump or fly away great distances and quickly is killed outright or dies a painful death. Since you have approved the removal of so much bushland where there WERE ACTUALLY significant habitat trees contrary to the lies being told by the consultants who wrote the EA for Duralie Coal and their pathetic experts. Stratford Coal is seeking approval for you to again in this area do the same. Don't make the same mistake at Stratford you have made by approving Duralie Coal to remove this most important bushland area for wildlife.

- Their projected mitigation proposals all done in big maps, are most disturbing. Mitigation is an ugly term to describe desktop data analysis and projected hypothesise and opinions and try's to convince the government, general public, that the mining company can put back what they have destroyed. Ian MacDonald even went as far as saying to me/us when we met him "as good as new if not better". What rubbish! The fact the area will be left with numerous dirty water holding dams with toxic dirty mine waste water, contaminated by coal, heavy metals, salts, acids, sulphurs that have all been brought to the surface and are ready to oxidise and contaminate ground water, creeks and rivers a sad reality. Therefore this entire project MUST be rejected!

In Figure 4: - Using their own documentation on behalf of an environment unable to defend against such disgusting proposals

It is obvious the bushland on the mountain range will be destroyed by this proposal including all the creeks they plan to divert, alter their flow and destroy, while holding onto their false & ugly 'catch cry' that everything they do will be "minimal, insignificant and unlikely impact" and they can return and replace "through mitigation works" ALL they have removed? Go figure! Reject entirely!

I do NOT give my permission for our Government Departments & Ministers to continue to hand over and authorise further modifications of the above STRATFORDCOAL mine. Which obviously destroys the valley floor, destroys the creeks and river systems, wildlife habitat bulldozed, wildlife killed in numbers NOT documented when their habitat is removed, while some are in their burrows or in tree hollows suffering slow & painful deaths if not killed outright. The overburden dumps of DURALIECOAL, STRATFORDCOAL and elsewhere are made up of these animals that ARE victims of Government approved mining. Not something to be proud of is it? Offsetting an area for another area of bushland/habitat for wildlife to be destroyed. This is unjust, ugly and destroys more wildlife habitat. YOU have authorised the destruction of bushland in Duralie Road. This SHOULD have remained intact. YOU MUST protect this bushland from any form of mining impact from Stratford Coal.

These pits are not modifications. They are new mines. I care little for the fact Part 3A has been stamped on these mines where they can be approved over and over as they tare down new areas of valley, bushland, mountain ranges, wildlife habitat. Though any approval will continue to go down on record that it was a win for the mining company at the expense of everything and everyone else being impacted by these decisions of many Government Departments.

I therefore do NOT give my permission for ANY further bushland and trees in Stratford coal's proposed area are natural bushland areas, the mountain range habitat trees for all wildlife to be cleared.

The false claims from their consultants & experts and consultants/experts falsely stating in any documentation they produce for either mining company Duraliecoal or Stratfordcoal

under the YANCOAL/China that the area is “just cleared land” or “regrowth”. Is not only wrong, a direct lie this is very, very ugly!

The Bucketts NSW Tourist Drive 2 is on the way out in the Gloucester-Stroud Valley from Government approved mining and should you continue to be involved in authorising Stratford Coal approval the destruction will continue for everyone in that area, our environment and wildlife. I therefore request Government to decline the entire EIS and the proposed extension project be rejected entirely.

The cumulative impact of all these mining companies (Yancoal Duralie/Stratford Coal and AGL Gas, Gloucester Resources) is individually and combined destroying vast tracks of useable land if managed properly for short term gain for a select few at the expense of everything and everyone else. The impacts on tourism, farming, with more business of farming and dairies bought up by Stratford Coal and other mining companies in Gloucester shire alone are so very wrong.

The economic value of mining VS Economic value of farming, tourism, other occupations which far outweighs the few jobs the mine give local people actually living in the valley or the amount of jobs are so much less than the rest of the majority of the population NOT in the mining, showing the area sustains itself and was doing so before mining was approved to come into our valley. The vehicle movement of this valley is very evident each morning when streams of white mining vehicles turn right and left into The Bucketts Way off the Pacific Highway and head North to Duralie and Stratford Coal mine.

- Farming, Tourism, people on their property if managing those properties and other industries and occupations could NEVER cause the permanent damage done to an area that has been open cut and spat back out into over burden dumps, toxic dams and massive voids. Even though Government and mining kid themselves “they are leasing the land and they can give it back to the environment after they have finished with it” is as false as their EIS.

I have other documentation in hard copy including photos I wish to submit with my objection to the Stratford Coal proposals and will post these next week.

I will sign and post the original submission letter and enclose that with the other information.

This document is being sent to fit into your time frame today.

Yours faithfully
Amanda Albury
151 Forest Glenn Road
Limeburners Creek NSW 2324

Entrance to Stratford Coal which was formerly owned by Gloucester Coal now owned by YANCOAL - South of Stratford Township.





Formerly Gloucester Coal now owned by YANCOAL - China



Corner of Wenham Cox Road & Bowens Road Stratford Township area, right hand side will be Stratford Coal's next open cut pit, should they be approved. We hope not!



Stratford Coal moving closer to Bowens Road and destroying more valley. This entire area will be open cut, if approved & remove Bowens Road currently, rediverting Road.



Standing on Wenham Cox's Road looking at overburden of Stratford Coal and open cut mine.



Wyndam Cox's Road. View of Stratford Coal's overburden and side of pit. The massive landmass being dug up and destroyed for small coal deposits and short term gain. Mining companies "minimal, insignificant, unlikely impacts" are false!



Another Dairy farm business – 'Death by mining' at Stratford. Our valley being open cut for what? "Short term coal revenue", leaving us all a legacy of a mining toxic wasteland.



These letter boxes on Wyndam Cox's Road left standing in front of Stratford Coal's open cut and overburden dump. Representing lives lived here & peoples hopes, dreams shattered by Government approved mining companies.



Corner of Bowens Road & Wyndam Cox's Road looking at Stratford Coal mine. Photo taken from Bowens Road looking at next area to be open cut if approved.



Bowens Road Stratford Township, mountains/bushland being removed.



Looking North across Wyndam Cox's Road - bird life habitat area.



Two photos of overburden dump along Wyndam Cox's Road – looking South.





Looking towards The Bucketts Way over letterboxes in Wyndam Cox's Road and if Government approved will be open cut through past Bowens Road.



Our valley, mountains, bushland and wildlife being destroyed by Stratford Coal mine. One of proposed open cut extensions, should Government give approval.



Bowens Road, Stratford Township area - looking towards Wyndam Cox's Road. Mine seeks to re-divert Bowens road and open cut this area - if approved.



Photo taken from Bowens Road – one of the areas be open cut if approved.



Bushland to all be removed should Stratford Coal be approved, turning the area into an open cut pit, wildlife unable to fly or jump away are killed outright or displaced.



Farm property brought up by Stratford Coal. This area if approved will be open cut.



Looking at open cut pit from Bowens Road. See any coal? Bushland & wildlife destroyed being destroyed by Stratford Coal/YANCOAL for short-term profits for some, leaving a life time of wasteland for everyone.



Another farm house vacant and will go entirely along with the bushland of listed Threatened Species in an open cut coal mine, should Stratford Coal be approved.



Farewell to Bowens Road, bushland and wildlife, should Government approve Stratford Coal's extension. Trees are mature habitat trees not saplings.



Original Wyndam Cox's Road before Stratford Coal diverted Road, more than a road closure. An open cut coal mine coming through bushland removing all!



Open cut ploughing through wildlife Endangered, Threatened & Vulnerable Species.



These trees are typical of the massive habitat trees in this area all earmarked to go, should Government approve Stratford Coal & allow this area to be open cut.



Corner of Bowens Road (looking North) and left into Cemetary Road, Stratford Township. If approved this entire area will be open cut, bush felled and wildlife killed.



Coal wagons going into Stratford Coal loading area.



Photo of the valley North to be destroyed by mining impacts of more to come in this area, should Government approve Stratford Coal to continue.



Coal wagons against a back drop of mature habitat trees for wildlife, the valley glimpses and mountain ranges.



Mining signs remind people of what is happening to the Gloucester-Stroud valley in 'selective places'. "Mining Lease" another ugly term falsely used by Government and mining. The natural environment once destroyed can't be given back to the people of NSW. Toxic voids & dirty water-holding dams flowing into creeks and river systems to Manning River Taree. Impacts from Stratford Coal mine impacting Craven affects creeks and Wards River, that all flow into Mammy Johnsons River, Karuah River/Port Stephens.



Train wagons being loaded by hopper at Stratford Coal.



In Memory of road signs Stratford Township area once standing, people living down these roads and once an environment intact.



The piles of coal building up the valley, smothering the bushland, wildlife & people.



Government approved mining ventures – doing their thing for a ‘select few’ at the expense of everyone and everything else ‘Australian’



Stratford Coal works depot. Our valley, our future is now owned by China.



Coal built up higher than the mature gum trees.



Another photo from a different angle, showing the mature habitat trees are dying.



Stratford Coal stock pile.



Photo showing the scale and impact of Stratford Coal.



Stratford Coal's train wagon, stock pile.



Valley view of what is happening in this area. Life extinguished!



Our valley not impacted YET! Though mine is moving North into this area.



Looking south imagining the coal mine that is moving north open cutting this area, should Government authorise Stratford Coal to continue to operate.



An Eagle looking down on an altering valley (near old piggery) at Stratford area.



This sign at grass road area of Stratford Township running along the pine trees. Should Government approve Stratford Coal, their impact of Bowens Road diversion & open cut coal mine will be 1000m or less from these pine trees behind this sign and the houses.

Yet a coal mine can dump their industry into bushland, rural/agricultural land, towns & villages, remove farming, agriculture and tourism?

- The photos below are showing the trees. The mine is too close to Stratford Township already and is already impacting people. Some houses in this area of the tree line will be 1000 metres away or less from mine alterations to Bowens Road and/or open cut mine impacts. Homes are already cracking with blasts and vibrations; the people already have coal dust inside and outside their homes, and have coal dust in their tank water (drinking water). They are NOT on main water supply their tank water IS being affected and these people SHOULD NOT be drinking contaminated water or have to pay to connect to a 'proposal of town water supply' if and when that should happen, the Government and mining SHOULD pay for all connection fees to every house hold in Stratford Township and have sealed water tanks at the expense of buying water into the people living in villages/towns and their homes affected by Government mining approvals.



Why would Government even consider authorising Stratford Coal mine to come closer to Stratford Township? Stratford Coal now Yancoal are already impacting people and causing great distress and health problems, which are also affecting peoples sleeping patterns.

Government approved mining should not continue to authorise the ‘legalised’ poisoning of our environment, our wildlife deaths in the billions undocumented or the continued disregard for people & animals health impacts by these Government approvals.

These photos show some of the affects this mine is already having, or the area, bushland they intend to dig up and destroy should the Government give them approval.

Please reject the Stratford Coal project entirely.

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