

19/11/2013 (9 items)

Whitehaven 'misleading' **The Australian, Australia**, Business News, **Adam Shand**

19 Nov 2013

Page 18 - 139 words

Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 53.36 cm² - National - Australia - ID: 223754447

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#) 116,655 CIRCULATION**Residents support mining industry** **Singleton Argus, Singleton NSW**, General News

19 Nov 2013

Page 3 - 283 words

Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 112.72 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223821504

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#) 3,389 CIRCULATION**Coalition does opposite** **Newcastle Herald, Newcastle NSW**, Letters

19 Nov 2013

Page 12 - 204 words

Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 102.64 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223778279

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#) 36,368 CIRCULATION**Proud miner** **Singleton Argus, Singleton NSW**, Letters, **Ben Graham**

19 Nov 2013

Page 4 - 130 words

Photo: No - Type: - Size: 51.19 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223821835

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#) 3,389 CIRCULATION**Ben Graham Mine support** **Singleton Argus, Singleton NSW**, Letters

19 Nov 2013

Page 4 - 133 words

Photo: No - Type: Letter - Size: 55.94 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223821844

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#) 3,389 CIRCULATION

Air quality discussed by experts in Singleton

 [Singleton Argus, Singleton NSW](#), General News

19 Nov 2013

Page 2 - 542 words

Photo: No - Type: - Size: 364.77 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223821503

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#)



3,389 CIRCULATION

Community carols to go ahead

 [Singleton Argus, Singleton NSW](#), General News

19 Nov 2013

Page 8 - 361 words

Photo: Yes - Type: News Item - Size: 227.66 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223821593

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#)



3,389 CIRCULATION

Newman to reveal future stock in 30-year plan for state's resources

 [Courier Mail, Brisbane](#), General News, [Sarah Volger](#)

19 Nov 2013

Page 2 - 185 words

Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 84.05 cm² - QLD - Australia - ID: 223754928

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#)



172,801 CIRCULATION

Mine poses water threat

 [Illawarra Mercury, Wollongong NSW](#), General News, [Emma Spillett](#)

19 Nov 2013

Page 7 - 476 words

Photo: No - Type: News Item - Size: 225.24 cm² - NSW - Australia - ID: 223767294

[Read full text](#) - [View print article](#)



19,380 CIRCULATION

18/11/2013 (5 items)

Rio Tinto Coal Australia's Chris Salisbury has welcomed recent changes to the NSW ...

 [ABC Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, 12:30 News, Newsreader](#)

18 Nov 2013 12:32 PM

Duration: 0 min 32 secs - NSW - Australia - ID: W00055300373

Rio Tinto Coal Australia's Chris Salisbury has welcomed recent changes to the NSW planning laws, and is hoping that Rio Tinto's new mine expansion application will be approved.

Interviewees

Chris Salisbury, Spokesman, Rio Tinto Coal Australia



N/A ALL
N/A MALE 16+
N/A FEMALE 16+

Attempts to uncover clandestine lobbying of the NSW Government by Rio Tinto, followin...

 **ABC Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, 12:30 News, Newsreader**

18 Nov 2013 12:31 PM

Duration: 0 min 58 secs - NSW - Australia - ID: W00055300333

Attempts to uncover clandestine lobbying of the NSW Government by Rio Tinto, following the recently amended state planning laws and subsequent expansion application for the Warkworth coal mine, have been rebuffed. The Planning Department recently received an application from Bernard Lagan for information on official meetings, which was refused.

Interviewees

Bernard Lagan, Journalist

 N/A ALL
N/A MALE 16+
N/A FEMALE 16+

Jones replays part of an interview with Businessman Rod McGeoch from June, regardin...

 **2GB, Sydney, Breakfast, Alan Jones**

18 Nov 2013 7:19 AM

Duration: 10 mins 13 secs - NSW - Australia - ID: W00055294034

Jones replays part of an interview with Businessman Rod McGeoch from June, regarding Rio Tinto and Bulga. McGeoch says that Bulga and the Environmental Defender's Office took on one of the world's grandest mining companies and won. He says it was scandalous for Rio Tinto to not admit that they had lost on every legal ground but blame the people who took them to court, and he then offered to help the Government and mining industry as he thinks there is a way through this. He says Bulga will not reap much of the financial reward of this mining. He says the Planning Assessment Commission says that 'these people' have relied on a 2003 deed that said the area would never be mined, so a government and mining company applying to overturn that annoys him. McGeoch says cheap energy is critical but Australia can get there in a sensible way, and says Barry O'Farrell and the Government need to get in the middle and settle the issue rather than siding with one of the parties. He has a letter from the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance which says they will support any well considered document which considers existing land activities, health concerns, and the overall impacts of mining activities in the region, but want to be fairly treated. McGeoch says the community of Warkworth has disappeared off the map and he is waiting to hear a government say that matters and Jones says he has written to O'Farrell and Deputy Premier Stoner, and McGeoch says he told Rio Tinto he was their best chance of fixing the issue so everyone is happy but they did not engage. McGeoch says there is a railway line connecting the community to NSW, but there is no domestic train on anymore as it is full of coal trains. After replaying the interview, Jones says that the Government 'under the cover of midnight' has now changed the planning provisions of NSW so the resource must be the main issue when determining approval of a mining application.

Interviewees

Rod McGeoch, Businessman

 177,000 ALL
97,000 MALE 16+
79,000 FEMALE 16+

Finance Report....

 **ABC News 24, Sydney, Mornings, Joe O'Brien**

18 Nov 2013 10:51 AM


Duration: 0 min 34 secs - National - Australia - ID: M00055299139

Finance Report.

The latest survey from the Minerals Council has found some resources companies are not sharing enough of the benefits of the boom in their communities. In the 2011-2012 financial year, more than \$34 billion was spent on community infrastructure and local business and this far exceeds what companies pay in tax and royalties. The Council says it is another reason to scrap the Mineral and Resources Rent Tax.

Also broadcast from the following 10 stations

ABC News 24 (Melbourne), ABC News 24 (Regional NSW), ABC News 24 (Brisbane), ABC News 24 (Adelaide), ABC News 24 (Regional Queensland), ABC News 24 (Hobart), ABC News 24 (Canberra), ABC News 24 (Regional Victoria), ABC News 24 (Albany), ABC2 (Albany)

 64,000 ALL
35,000 MALE 16+
23,000 FEMALE 16+

A handful of top public health professionals are urging the O'Farrell Government to rejec...

 **2HD, Newcastle, 16:00 News, Newsreader**


18 Nov 2013 4:02 PM

Duration: 0 min 58 secs - NSW - Australia - ID: W00055305483

A handful of top public health professionals are urging the O'Farrell Government to reject the Port Waratah Coal proposal for a T4 coal terminal at Kooragang Island due to concerns about community health.

Interviewees

James Whelan, Spokesman, Hunter Community Environment Centre

 4,000 ALL
2,000 MALE 16+
2,000 FEMALE 16+



Whitehaven 'misleading'

COAL: Opponents of Whitehaven Coal's Maules Creek coalmine in NSW have called on the Australian Securities & Investments Commission to investigate claims the miner misled regulators over biodiversity offsets to win government approval for the project.

The Maules Creek Community Council has accused Whitehaven of not providing "like for like" environments to offset the destruction of white gum forest in the development of the mine, which is home to several endangered species.

Whitehaven chairman Mark Vaile wrote to *The Australian* last week to deny the company had won approvals on false information.

"The offsets package Whitehaven has proposed for Maules Creek is comprehensive and the supporting documentation relating to the offsets package met the agencies' requirements or else the project would not have been approved," Mr Vaile wrote.

The MCCC called on ASIC to undertake an investigation.

ADAM SHAND



Residents support mining industry

THE vast majority of Singleton residents love its mining industry if a survey conducted by the NSW Minerals Council is any indication.

Conducted in July this year, predominantly in Singleton, the results were far more positive than NSW Minerals Council chief executive Stephen Galilee anticipated.

A general question asking the 324 people surveyed if they supported mining, 58 per cent said they strongly supported mining, 25 per cent supported, nine per cent were neutral, four per cent opposed and another four per cent strongly opposed.

Asked if they considered the

industry was important to the economy, the answers came as no surprise with 75 per cent saying it was very important with just four per cent saying the industry was unimportant.

Asked if jobs should be given a high priority for mining developments, 57 per cent said they should be given a very high priority. Only one per cent said jobs should be given the lowest priority.

Sixty-four per cent of those surveyed said they would be more likely to vote for a government that supported mining.

More specifically, when it came to the Mount Thorley Warkworth expansion which is now subject to a NSW Supreme

Court appeal, 57 per cent supported the expansion and 30 per cent opposed it.

"It shows that quite a lot of people in the community do support the mining industry," Mr Galilee said.

"It is not a case of industry versus community, it is very well the opposite, mining companies are here, their policies are to provide support to the local community and any discussion of division is very unfair," he said.

He said Lithgow was the only other mining community in New South Wales that showed as much support for mining as Singleton.



Coalition does opposite

I'M not sure where Phillipa Hutchings gets the idea that mining is being "crippled" by "red tape" ("Mine mess not our fault" Letters 18/11).

Under NSW law, coalmine proposals are approved by the planning minister as a matter of course, no matter where they are, what damage they will do, or what the local community thinks.

Usually, the community has no right to challenge the approval in court – the minister's decision is final.

Unlike most local groups, the Bulga community were allowed to mount a legal challenge to the approval of Rio Tinto's Warkworth extension.

The judge found that the mine should never have been approved. Why? Because the harmful effects on the community and the environment were greater than the benefits the project might bring.

Among other things, the judge found that Rio Tinto had greatly exaggerated how many jobs the

mine would create.

The O'Farrell government response? New laws to better put the system in favour of mining approvals, such as the Planning Bill currently before Parliament.

The Coalition were elected to govern NSW on a promise to restore balance to planning laws and give communities protection from mining. They are doing the exact opposite.

Steve Phillips, Hunter co-ordinator, Lock The Gate Alliance, Wickham



Proud miner

Editor

I work at Mt Thorley Warkworth (MTW)

mine and am proud to do so.

I also have a young family and hope to stay in the area for a long time.

The future of MTW and mining in the Hunter Valley is therefore closely linked to my future and the future of my 35 strong contracting team.

Anything I say will be correctly viewed as a biased comment, so I won't comment.

All I ask of your readers is to look at the many positives that a business like MTW brings to the area and not just the negatives, as is most often reported by the media.

Also, please consider that many negative comments about MTW come with a similar but reversed bias to anything that I might say.

Ben Graham



Mine support

Editor,

As a productive community member and employee of Mount Thorley Warkworth who is raising a young family in the Hunter Valley, I would like to say that mines like Mount Thorley Warkworth need to be sup-

ported by the community and government. These are the biggest employers in the region and the lifeblood of the communities they inhabit.

They do have impacts but they are managed and the benefits to the community far outweigh the negatives.

Mount Thorley Warkworth directly employs over 1,300 people and indirectly supports thousands more.

We need to take a step back and look at what mining has done for the progress and people of our region.

My family and thousands like me depend on Mount Thorley Warkworth and what mining has done for the Hunter Valley.

Trent Goddard



Air quality discussed by experts in Singleton

A LEARNED panel of experts on air quality and its impact on human health came together in Singleton last week to share facts, research initiatives and explain, yet again, the evolving knowledge around a subject that intrigues some and frightens others.

Dr Tuan Au probably summed the three hour meeting with a comment that a problem with water supply would be immediately addressed because it would have immediate health implications.

However, a problem with air quality can take years to manifest as a health issue and therefore the response has not been as fast as people want.

Dr Au explained the difficulty in health studies, adding that a proper, long term study, would take 40 to 50 years.

He said the health issue of the 21st century was air quality but that it could take 40 years before people realised their health was affected.

Dr Au said he appreciated Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group's oppor-

tunity to work with experts such as public health physician Dr Craig Dalton and respiratory expert Dr Guy Marks and others, people who were genuinely interested in the research and the conversation.

"There is a lot we can do and change not so much on the behalf of my generation but on the behalf of the next generation and the coal miners themselves," Dr Au said.

"It is only after coal miners retire that they develop lung problems, especially diesel mechanics and coal miners working around diesel fumes, when you are young you don't notice it but when you are 60 you do," he said.

On a more positive note Environment Protection Authority director North Gary Davey spoke of the Dust Stop program that is successfully reducing the level of dust from haul roads at coal mines.

Mr Davey said he was pleased there was now a scientific approach so that attention and budget could be focussed on the areas that warrant it.

Other initiatives to be looked at in the coming year

are:

- \$400,000 Lower Hunter Characterization study
- \$350,000 to update air emission inventory
- \$500,000 to review air pollution controls at hazardous facilities (ie power stations)
- \$8000 to maintain the existing Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring System.
- \$33,000 for the completion of the PM 2.5 emissions model for the Upper Hunter
- \$590,000 for woodsmoke reduction initiatives
- \$300,000 to reduce diesel emissions from non-road vehicles such as construction equipment and diesel plants on coal mines.
- \$300,000 for Lower Hunter Community Research Project (community views on Lower Hunter air quality, a smart phone app on air quality, Lower Hunter rail dust deposition study, air quality monitoring in the Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie.

"The health issue of the 21st century is air quality but it could take 40 years before people realised their health is affected," said Dr Tuan Au.



TALKS: A panel of experts gave an update of the work carried out over the past year to address air quality and health in Singleton on Thursday night (l-r) Singleton Shire Healthy Environment Group Dr John Drinan, Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand Hunter chairperson Cynthia Isley, CSIRO principal researcher Dr Mark Hibberd, OEH Atmospheric and Climate Science director Matt Riley, Public Health physician Dr Craig Dalton and Singleton GP Dr Tuan Au.



Community carols to go ahead

THE very same reason why this year's Baptist Christmas Party nearly did not happen, is the same reason why the organisers were determined that the event go ahead – the economic downturn.

Those organising the event found it difficult to source the sponsorship needed to stage the free party but pushed on because they knew it would give struggling families something to look forward to.

The party which is also known as Community Carols@ the Heights is set to take place on December 7 and will begin with two hours of children's activities at 5.30pm.

"The event is about bringing the town together and giving them something to celebrate that does not cost much," organiser, Kim Sutherland-O'Brien told the *Singleton Argus*.

"People are hurting and so are local businesses and that is why we are so grateful for the sponsorship we have received."

Linda Butler who is also helping to put the event together said without the help of Macquarie Generation, Coal and Allied, the Baptist Church and Pirtek the event would have been scaled back to a "carolling session."

"We were worried at one stage that we would have to



ORGANISERS: Kim Sutherland-O'Brien and Linda Butler who have found it challenging to organise this year's Baptist Christmas Party at Allan Bull Reserve.

stop the free kid's entertainment, sausage sizzle, drinks and the traditional fireworks display but thanks to more sponsors coming on board it can now all go ahead," she said.

"Sponsors like Robert's Meats, the Singleton Highway Butchery, Throsby's, Singleton Heights Bakery and Bakers Delight."

Now organisers have the financial backing the hard work to make it all happen is about to begin.

"We have four weeks until the day so now we will really have to get busy."

"There is plenty to organise but the whole congregation lends a hand, they have to," Linda laughed.

A highlight of the evening will be a performance by former Singleton resident Kerryann McKittrick and a Puppet Show from Sydney performers, Quizworks.

Linda said the only thing families need to bring with them is a chair or a blanket and should note that if wet weather conditions prevail the event will be relocated to the Baptist Church on Gardiner Circuit.



Newman to reveal future stock in 30-year plan for state's resources

SARAH VOGLER

PLANS to create a 30-year road map to boost mining industry dividends and turn Queensland into a resources powerhouse will be unveiled by Premier Campbell Newman today.

With the mining industry waning on the back of weaker coal prices and other economic factors, Mr Newman will call on the resources sector to help the Government develop the

plan to turn the industry around, including boosting employment in the regions.

He will unveil plans to establish ResourcesQ, a series of workshops and forums focusing on the sector, at the Queensland Resources Council annual luncheon today.

It follows the Newman Government's announcement it will offer incentives, including royalty concessions, to miners in a bid to help get Galilee coal projects off the ground.

Mr Newman said the goal of ResourcesQ would be to build an economically strong, competitive and agile resources sector in Queensland over the next 30 years.

"The aim of ResourcesQ will be to find new ways to cement Queensland's position as a global resource destination for the future," he will tell industry leaders. "We want to work with industry and those with a real stake in Queensland's resources sector."



Mine poses water threat

EMMA SPILLETT

A PROPOSED expansion of Gujarat NRE Coking Coal's Russell Vale mine presents a major threat to the water catchment's special areas, environmentalists say.

A report released by the Total Environment Centre (TEC), claims the mine proposal would seriously damage streams and endangered swamps, critical to water supply, and the environmental values of the Woronora Plateau.

The troubled Illawarra mining company submitted a preferred project report (PPR) to NSW Planning in October, which showed dramatically scaled-back plans for its No 1 Colliery expansion project.

A previous proposal for seven longwalls at the company's Wonga West mine was scrapped while plans to mine nine longwalls were shaved back to eight shortened or realigned longwalls.

Gujarat NRE corporate relations head, Dr Chris Harvey, said gaining approval for the Russell Vale project is "essential" if the mine is to continue operating.

The PPR, currently under consideration, includes an environmental assessment which the TEC claims "seriously underestim-

ated" the environmental impacts of the project.

The centre's report states the expansion would result in "unacceptable damage to crucial environmental assets" in the Woronora

Plateau, west of Wollongong.

The plateau encompasses the upper catchments of several rivers including Woronora, Cataract and Avon and is home to five "special areas", along with 56 threatened animals and plants.

The TEC claims the expansion would damage more than a third of the swamps in the plateau.

The report says it would be "inappropriate" for the swamps, which regulate water quality and flows from the upper catchment, to sustain any damage.

Gujarat NRE claims its longwall panels would be moved away from the plateau's nine "special significance" swamps but the TEC believes the likelihood of serious environmental impact remains.

The report also notes concerns with subsidence and its ability to affect water balance and vegetation and increase the plateau's vulnerability to weed invasion.

While Gujarat NRE has proposed to monitor the site, the TEC claims the impacts can occur

months or even years, after mining activity, rendering monitoring "impractical and ineffective".

"By the time damage has been detected, it is likely that mining will have been completed, with perhaps more swamps being damaged," the report said.

"It should be concluded that the only viable means of preventing damage to [swamps] is to avoid mining beneath them."

The centre also took issue with risks to the plateau's streams, which form part of the region's drinking water supply, noting the PPR indicated that mining would reduce flows from the streams.

It also showed mining activity would significantly impact stored water levels in the Cataract Reservoir during extended dry periods.

The report claims the company has presented an unrealistic "best case scenario" in its assessments.

It has called for any assessment to consider the cumulative impact of past and future mining activities, including the flagged submission of the Wonga West longwalls, as well as remediation difficulties.

Gujarat NRE had not responded to questions when the newspaper went to press.