

Thank you to the Department of Planning for the opportunity to respond to Mandalong Southern Extension EIS.

Having lived in the area for over 20 years, and in the Mandalong Southern Extension area, I am very concerned about the impact of the proposed mining.

We would like a response to the concerns we have raised in this document.

Our main concerns are:

1. Noise

From the mine ventilation shaft and road construction, which is proposed to be 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. This will have a major impact on everyone's rural living lifestyle. Having lived in the area for such a long time it is very hard to come to terms with the fact that our peaceful lifestyle will be no longer for such a significant amount of time. 78 weeks is too long to put up with noise without a break. Please leave us with our weekends free from traffic and noise disruption. We live in a rural environment for one reason only and that is to enjoy the respite from life it offers. Centennial Coal's proposal is ignoring our rights as landowners to have peaceful enjoyment of our properties. If this construction has to take place, then we strongly request Dept. of Planning to ensure it is only normal business hours being Monday to Friday only.

2. Water flow, flooding and Ponding

We have a drainage line creek (Moran's Creek) through our property. This creek always has water in it. It provides essential water for stock and irrigation (in some sections) and maintains the riparian zone flora and fauna. We are concerned, after looking at the Surface Water Impact Assessment EIS, about the impacts of changes in water flows on the catchment, and in particular, the effect on our property. We are concerned about the quality of the water and loss of riparian bushland through a change in water flows from subsidence. We are particularly concerned about the effects of flooding. More flooding is going to impact our road and bridge, ability to access our property and could lead to an inability for us to leave our property in an emergency flood situation. The mine plan needs to be adjusted to ensure that changes to water flows do not occur, and in particular, there is no increase to flooding. A development consent condition should be put in place to give landowners rights to obtain compensation to have their access roads reconstructed to acceptable standards. This will ensure we maintain access to our property 24x7, irrespective of flooding.

3. Traffic on Mandalong Road

During the construction phase of the ventilation shaft and access road, there will be an increase in heavy vehicles. This has an impact on our use of the area. As horse riders, bike riders and walkers along Mandalong Road, as are our children, we are concerned for our safety. Mandalong Road is predominantly used for local landowners. There is very little heavy vehicle traffic on it. The traffic that Mandalong Southern Extension area will be trucks. As a horse rider, it is a huge safety issue with the increase of trucks, which can frighten a horse, particularly in parts of the road where there is minimal verge to move to safety. The road is narrow and uneven. There is no provision to move safely off the road if need be. The road needs to be improved and widened. Ideally, a walker/bike rider path should be constructed alongside the road to enable the community to continue to use the road for their recreational use.

4. Giving back to the people of Mandalong for the impact of mining

An overseas company is mining in our valley, impacting our lifestyles and properties, and giving us nothing in return. The EIS doesn't state anything about what is going to benefit the residents of this valley we have called home for over 20 years that is now going to be changed forever. The mine takes over the valley, but the valley gets nothing in return from the mines. There should already be a beautification process in place with the current Centennial Coal Mandalong mining, which has been in the valley for 10 years – and in those 10 years they have done nothing. We as landowners seem to lose no matter which way you look at mining in the area.

There is very little consideration of our natural environment. Mining affects the value of our properties, it imposes noise, stress, water flow problems, loss of community. It seems we expected to conform to the rules of mining company and what do we get out of it? We want to see direct investment in improving our community in lieu of what they are taking away. Without conditions it will not happen. We want the mining company to invest some of the wealth they are getting from the coal under our land to invest some of it back into beautifying the area. We want to see the environment (social and natural) be put in front of the business profit plans of overseas owned mining companies. It's not an impossibility to do this with minimal expenditure compared to the millions they make.

Some suggestions are recreational access on the side of Mandalong Road for walkers, cyclists, horse riders such as a formed track. Beautifying the entrance area of Mandalong, near the entrance to the current Mandalong Mine, with a sign and a small native landscaped area. Improving Mandalong Road to handle the extra traffic and a

provide a better road for residents. Investment in environmental projects in the area, such as improving the Mandalong wetlands and fencing, rehabilitating bushland areas particularly on the vast number of Centennial Coal owned properties and in the area of the infrastructure and power line relocation.

I sincerely ask that our Australian NSW State government imposes some conditions on the overseas owned Centennial Coal (making huge profits) to directly invest in projects that improve our area.

5. Ventilation Shaft

We are concerned about the quality of the air we breathe being polluted by gas and other impurities from the ventilation shaft during its operation. Many of us are asthmatics, and chose to live in the country to have clean air. We ask the Dept. of Planning to ensure there is no degradation of the quality of the air caused by the ventilation shaft. Please include a strict develop consent condition on pollution as we are aware of the impacts to the air of other communities in the Hunter Valley. As we have minimal pollution and dust now, even a small amount, under criteria set in the EIS, will be have an impact.