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[Skip to content](#)

[Home](#) > [Development Assessments](#) > [Major Project Assessments](#)

barrie griffiths, of singleton NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Mangoola Mine - Modification 6 - Extraction Rate Increase



Objects to this project

Department of Planning, Major Projects.

Mangoola Mine Mod6

I submitted detailed written objections to this mine when originally proposed, as Anvil Hill, and gave oral presentation to the Commission of Inquiry. The loss of this large area of high conservation value woodland is a tragedy. I object to this latest modification for reasons summarised below.

Discharge to the Hunter River was specifically not permitted in the original application and if approved strict conditions on water management should apply to ensure the discharge is not used unless in extreme circumstances.

Discharges of saline water into the Hunter River are resulting in an increase in the background levels of salinity in the river. This is detrimental to the river environment and downstream agriculture.

Water is being taken from agricultural systems and diverted to mining operations.

Present mining operations are concentrated in this area of the Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook Shire and increasing operations put additional stress on public infrastructure that is presently not coping with current levels of mining.

A concentration of mines in this area of the Upper Hunter is resulting in an unacceptable reduction in air quality for residents of the Upper Hunter.

Increasing mine output increase mine sourced air pollution and decrease air quality for Upper Hunter residents.

The mine will add to the cumulative impacts of mine sourced air pollution for the whole Hunter Valley.

Precautionary principles regarding health effects short and long term should be applied; there is insufficient data to make a sensible determination regarding the health effects upon the residents of the regions that are already exposed to high density coal mining, particularly open cut.

Expansion of operations will increase noise produced by the mine. Current disputes between mine affected residents and Mangoola Coal are unresolved.

An increase in production will result in an increase in rail traffic and rail noise.

Mining companies already own more than 50% of rateable land in the Muswellbrook Shire. The Upper Hunter is saturated with coal mines and further expansion should be halted.

Lack of affordable housing, extra pressure for housing forcing young home buyers on normal incomes out of the area

Increase in employment will put pressure on the supply and demand for community services and facilities that are presently strained.

Increased production will put additional pressure on the road network.

The initial application and this modification does not address the issue of leaving post mining final voids

Proximity to the town of Denman. Denman does not have an air quality monitor that is part of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Network. Until Denman is part of the air quality network expansion of this mine and establishment of new mines near Denman Should be halted.

Threat to the diversity of the regional economy as mining drives out other sustainable industries and the long term employment they provide.

Mining in the Upper Hunter has a bad history of leaving land in a poor state

Extra coal production adds to climate change threat. In its report released on 17 June 2013 the Climate Change Commission warned there needed to be a major shift in the way energy is produced if international targets for global warming were to be met. The commission said the best way to avoid a changing climate beyond 2 degrees would be to invest heavily in clean energy, phase out coal and keep most of the world's fossil fuel reserves underground. The expansion will produce additional 2.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Barrie Griffiths.