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## **Richard Hordern, of AM & RJ Hordern, made the following submission on the project:**

### **Mangoola Mine - Modification 6 - Extraction Rate Increase**

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#### **Objects to this project**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission against the proposal to expand the current operations at Mangoola Coal located in the Upper Hunter Valley.

Our property is located directly opposite the Xstrata Mangoola Rail Loop that joins in to the Ulan - Newcastle Rail Line. Our property has been in the acquisition zone (Schedule 5) for Mangoola Coal from the onset of exploration, project approval and subsequent mining operations.

We operate a very successful lucerne and cereal hay production business and also finish prime vealer beef cattle on our highly productive Hunter River property which is run in conjunction with a larger dryland farm to the south of Denman. Our family has been involved in agriculture in the Hunter region for over 60 years and we have a sound clientele base and a succession planning investment that is currently being threatened by the proposed modification on exhibition for Mangoola Coal.

#### **Agriculture**

Our family is committed to improving our property and management skills to ensure that our farming enterprise is viable for the future.

Unfortunately the sheer size and scale of the encroaching mining activities in the area have made it very difficult to secure long term client contracts and to effectively produce family succession planning tools that will prove relevant if the current proposal by Mangoola is adopted by the DoP.

It was disappointing to note that in Figure 2.2 of Surrounding Major Land Uses that our property was NOT identified as an agricultural business, when much smaller operations were clearly identified. Considering we derive our entire income on-farm it appears that it is of little concern to the strategic planning of Mangoola.

#### **ES4.8 Agriculture**

The land surrounding Mangoola Coal "typically supports a mixture of agricultural productions.... in addition Mangoola Coal retains a

sustainable agricultural offset area within its property boundaries."

It is unfortunate that this agricultural offset delivers very little benefits to the local Upper Hunter agricultural community by way of selling cattle locally, sourcing consumable products locally and employs a fraction of the agricultural community that has been displaced due to the mine operation. Mangoola purports to employ local businesses but their financial input is a fraction of the historically parochial support offered by former landholders.

Indeed, the surrounding area is steeped in agricultural history involving vineyards, horse studs, dairies, beef production and other enterprises that would all be sustainable forms of agriculture for many years to come, unlike coal mining which is such a finite resource.

#### ES5

The proposed modification to Appendix 5 is a blatant contradiction to the guarantee that affected landholders had been given under the Project Approval. It is of little consolation that Xstrata Mangoola are 'offering' 12 months "grace" if the Modification is approved for 'former' Appendix 5 landholders to request acquisition in accordance with Schedule 3 of PA 06\_0014.

#### Acquisition Rights

From July 2007 when Xstrata purchased the mine from Centennial Coal we have been guaranteed that our property (132A & B) would have acquisition rights for the entire life of the mine. We have developed a clear and concise succession plan within our family, and are now placed in a very complex situation that has been accelerated by 5-6 years and has nullified our succession and financial long term planning goals. Personally we have spent considerable time, substantial funds and immeasurable emotional turmoil to secure a viable future for our children based on the foundations that we were unequivocally told would last for the life of the mine.

We now are extremely surprised to find that 5 years into a 20 year mine plan, the goal posts have changed and Xstrata Mangoola wish to remove our family and property from the Acquisition Zone into a Noise Management Zone, which would totally undermine the plans our family have sought to foster and work towards with a clear objective goal for the future. It is worth noting at this point that our children are 16 and 18 years of age, very passionate about agriculture and the future of the Hunter Valley, and are very mindful of the mental anguish and uncertainty that our family has endured for at least the past 6 years.

#### Consultation for Modification

##### Acquisition Rights

We would like to note that at NO STAGE during the F2F consultations, until 3 days before the modification went on public display, were we informed that we would be subject to a modification to our acquisition rights. From what we believe, there are only a few landholders in a similar situation, hence it may have been pertinent to have advised us of this situation well in advance of the modification going on display. It is scarcely believable that with an expansion to mining activities that a property located so closely to mine

infrastructure could be somehow less affected than previously predicted. Indeed in the 'worst case scenario' our property would exceed 35 Db in all 4 maps. (Fig 8.1 to 8.4)

#### Number of Employees

It appeared to be apparent under further questioning in the F2F meetings that although the modification sought approval to increase the workforce by 150 employees this would only be viable under full production and was not indicative of the actual increase in the number of employees that would be employed if the modification were approved. We believe it is very misleading that the modification purports to increase employment but is actually only using the possible increase in operational employees to cover a 'best case scenario' that will 'sell' the benefits of the proposed modification.

#### 4.6 On-site Gravel production

On a positive note, the area that Mangoola Coal currently mines is home to a very usable and formerly commercially attractive gravel source that Mangoola wish to use on-site. Our only regret is that it is unfortunate that the gravel is not available off-site for agricultural purposes as it was historically. The more self sustainable the mine can become must be a positive modification.

#### Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme

It is of concern that introduction to the HRSTS was not considered during earlier modifications to the pipeline supply from the Hunter River. It appears that the water management operations are concerned of possible problems in the future due to the lack of storage during substantial weather events as discussed in 4.13.3 Option 3. There should be NO RISK to downstream water sources, not merely a decreased risk. Quote "... note that limitations with water storage during certain climatic conditions are predicted to occur under current operations." If the modification is denied it would appear that regardless of extraction rate there would still pose a risk to uncontrolled releases and pit inundation in severe weather events.

Our property is the first privately owned WAL site downstream of the proposed Mangoola Coal salinity discharge site. It is of grave concern that we are the first point of contact, with our business relying solely on quality of water for irrigation of our prime alluvial lucerne river flats. We are dubious about the extent of potential saline residues and ongoing water quality issues with the proposed modification. Obviously the HRSTS will be monitored closely for cumulative effects of mines upstream of Mangoola Coal if the modification is approved. We have very little assurance of the integrity of Xstrata Mangoola regarding water quality due to issues raised in the past regarding water management following mine construction.

#### 11.3 Impact Assessment

It appears that if the Modification is approved, more water will be required short term at the CHPP, for haul roads dust suppression and changes to the Site water management system would need to occur. It is not easily recognisable what would eventuate if a drought situation becomes apparent

for an extended time. Feasibly one would imagine that any agricultural water used by Colinta Holdings would be deemed unavailable and transferred to mining activities, a situation not in keeping with the current and historical land use for the area.

Water is a finite resource and a precious commodity. The Hunter Valley is defined by the river, the lifeblood of the area. It is abhorrent that the current operations in the valley are abusing the valuable source of their productivity. We would strongly object to any further changes to the water balance in the Hunter River and on-site, especially as we are so close to the proposed discharge point.

#### ES4.5 Social Impacts & Opportunities

Whilst Mangoola Coal is visibly very generous in supporting the local community, the long term repercussions of the community's reliance on mining dollars is evident. It is increasingly difficult to find volunteers for a myriad of organisations and a lack of social commitment is obvious in the local area. The added pressure the increased workforce puts on already strained infrastructure leads to a lessening of quality service, and a 'watering down' of essential services previously enjoyed by the community.

The obliteration of the rural social fabric of the society the mine area encompasses has been replaced with a dedicated, affluent and perhaps slightly socially irresponsible community that is enjoying short term productivity. This is obviously a very subjective and morally conflicting opinion but nonetheless very important for the surrounding area and its future.

In closing, there are many areas that could be discussed at length, however we have tried to refer to areas that are pertinent to our personal situation. We have certainly endeavoured with our best efforts to maintain a co-operative and healthy working relationship with our neighbours, Colinta Holdings & Xstrata Mangoola, and have only lodged formal complaints when absolutely necessary, however it appears that our collaborative efforts are widely unrecognised as we are being dismissed as being not affected as previously predicted. One would hesitate to even contemplate how our dramatically our life has changed over the past 6 years, from a small vibrant community, rich in a myriad of agricultural pursuits, to a constant drone of mining noise, constant blast effects from either noise or dust, our house surrounds are now lit up like a city at night and we have an increased multitude of trains rushing past our gate 24 hours a day. According to this Modification we are not affected as much as predicted, and will be affected even less by an increase in mining activity.

We would like to see a balance of mining and agriculture, and fair compensation for those displaced by the effects of mining. Please consider this modification carefully and the impacts of its application on the area that we call home.

Many thanks,  
Richard , Fiona, Lucy & Andrew Hordern