

“Boomery”  
20 Yarraman Rd  
Wybong  
NSW 2333

**I object for the following reasons:**

The Social Impact Assessment within MCCO’s EIS clearly identifies that devaluation of property price and ability to sell is the major concern for proximal landholders. The proposed Community Enhancement Program does nothing to address that concern. I completely reject that it changes landholders concerns from High to Moderate. I ask that the Department find that this proposal should not be approved as the major concern of landholders is not overcome.

Our home will now be a neighbour to mine owned property. There are no benefits for us in this project. There will be serious disadvantages. The impacts of the existing mine on our lifestyle, enjoyment of our home, health and economic position are already unacceptable. Our neighbourhood has already been compromised by mine owned properties being let to tenants whom are not a suitable fit with the Wybong Community. Any perceived benefit that flows to the LGA do not flow to the proximal landholders.

Our property values are already decimated and the ability to sell when you want/need to is taken away. I feel like a hostage in my own home. We spent approximately \$7,000 marketing our property and had it on the market from 8.11.2017 until 2.5.2019. Despite many inspections, not one potential buyer got to the point of discussing sale price, most stating the proximity to Mangoola Open Cut Mine as the reason for not purchasing our property. Only those who have lived with this dreadful situation can really understand the stress and powerlessness felt due to Government Policy. The community has already been damaged. How is this co-existence? All the benefits go to the proponent and none to the Wybong community.

Where will it end? Mangoola state themselves in their EIS that if market conditions and the resource are satisfactory they may wish to apply for further mining approvals. The outcome of this uncertainty is that landholders stop spending money on improvements to their properties, which in turn has a

negative impact on businesses in the area. It also has a very detrimental impact on landholder's health and enjoyment of their homes.

The air quality in the Hunter Valley is already unacceptable and outside Health guidelines. We do not need another open cut mine. The greater distance the haul trucks will have to cart the coal to the prep plant will increase the dust load. The medical profession have spoken about the negative impacts of Hunter air quality. We cannot afford another mine. Dust in our home and water supply has been unacceptable since Mangoola started operating. I do not want that increased. I have very real fears for the long term effect of living so close to the mine on my family's health. As I write this I am listening to ABC radio listing the locations that had unsafe levels of PM10 yesterday (18/8/19). All locations are in the Hunter Valley.

We are already subject to intrusive noise from the mine, with frequent sleep disturbance in the winter months. They are currently approximately 5 kms from our home and now seeking approval to come within approx. 2.5 kms. We are told the worst case noise will be 37dB and the mine does not need to do anything to relieve the lived experience. Our background noise levels are 22dB or lower (measured at a near neighbour's property by Mangoola mine consultant EMGA/Mitchell McLennan in 2011). I have concerns that the noise modelling does not take into consideration the local topography of the area to the North of the mine. The noise comes across the low points in the range between us and the mine, travels across the creek flats hits Manobalai Hill and bounces back. While it is already too loud at our home, on the southern boundary of our property it is actually louder over the rest of our property further away from the mine. I worry that any increase in noise will be intolerable.

Glencore with all its operations in the Hunter Valley should through natural attrition be able to relocate the Mangoola workforce as their current operation winds down with no forced loss of jobs.

The espoused benefits from this project do not go to those closest to the mine. It is the proximal landholders who sustain all the negative impacts. In fact it could be said the further you are from the proposed mine the greater the benefits. There is no sharing of benefits. Glencore will receive enormous

wealth while the landholders in the local community will be economically disadvantaged through their properties being completely devalued.

Muswellbrook Shire Council will receive money, none of which to date has been spent in our community. A skate park in Muswellbrook won't help me sell my property for a fair unimpacted market price.

Money received by NSW and the Commonwealth in some small way supposedly flows to Wybong. We have no mobile reception, limited free to air TV, only satellite internet, no garbage collection, no sewerage and no town water. We did have a beautiful quiet rural environment before Mangoola started operations. Muswellbrook medical services are already under pressure. Schools in the LGA consistently perform below the state average. We do not want another mine in our community.

I believe we have enough mining in the Hunter and we need to start to diversify our economy. If we follow the scientists advice we need to leave this 52Mt of coal in the ground. Preserve the natural landscape. It is an important wildlife corridor from The Great Eastern Ranges to the Manobalai Reserve. We do not need another final void.

I worry about the global effects of mining and burning this coal. The assumption that this coal is cleaner to burn than other sources assumes that if this is dug up it will stop poorer quality coal being mined, this is absolutely not provable. There is no intergenerational fairness in approving this project. If the "Do no harm" rule is applied, this proposal cannot be approved.

My objection to this proposal is strongly based on the gross inequity of the project. If Mangoola Coal Continued Operations Project is approved the Proximal Landholders and the Wybong community pay the greatest price and Glencore receive all the benefits. How is this fair?

I ask that you find the MCCO project should not be approved and that you also determine that the existing conditions of consent should be changed so that Mangoola Coal have to do more to address the negative impacts they are causing with their current operations.

Margot White

