

90 Yarraman Rd
Wybong NSW 2333

28th August 2019

To whom it may concern

I wish to lodge my submission for the Mangoola Coal Continued Operations proposal currently on exhibition. I would like to advise that I strongly **oppose** the project for the following reasons:

1. We are currently subjected to constantly increasing noise from the mine. The noise seems to echo around our valley particularly in cold and still conditions. When we complain we are usually told that the mine is compliant, and nothing is ever done. We purchased our property in 2014 and initially were not affected much by the mining operations of Mangoola. The last 12 months particularly have been very disruptive and we feel that our rights to peace and quiet are greatly violated by the mining operations. We have received conflicting information over the years from Mangoola about how the mine is measuring the noise levels- at times we have been told they use mobile devices and at other times they listen with their ears!!! How can one person judge if the mining noise is acceptable? I feel it is a gross injustice that our family must suffer these impacts from the current mine, we definitely do not want it any closer!!!
2. I have little faith in the noise modelling for the new project. I'm not sure if the evaluation has taken into account the acoustic effects of the large mountain directly opposite my home??? I would like to see comprehensive independent noise assessments made to evaluate the impact of noise on local residents.
3. When we purchased our property for \$1.03Million in 2014 we considered the impact the mine might have on our lifestyle. We spent extensive periods of time at the property and were satisfied that the impacts from the mine were minimal. We also considered the extensive buffer zone surrounding the mine. We always expected that any expansion would be subject to the same amount of land. We are absolutely devastated to learn that Mangoola/Glencore are seeking an approval to continue operations without increasing the buffer zone as per the current VLAMP requirements.
4. I love driving along Ridgeland Road! Particularly late in the afternoon when the sun is setting, everything looks pristine and natural. I find the drive from Muswellbrook passing Bengalla, Mt Arthur and Mt Pleasant Operations particularly distressing as it is just plain ugly. I am so stressed and upset to think that my journey home to our 'idyllic' country lifestyle may soon see me driving past mounds of dirt, machinery and trucks. I worry about the water systems along that road. When it rains there is always extensive flooding through that area and I do not look forward to being swamped by a massive dam wall on our beautiful, once scenic drive!

5. I am not happy about any interference with the groundwater. I worry that the mining operations will affect Wybong Creek which has underground flows close to the proposed mining area.
6. There is a high probability that we will shortly sell our property as our children are venturing to University in the coming years. We do not think it is fair that our ability to sell is impacted by Mangoola and Glencore as we should have basic rights of being able to sell our home for fair market value in a reasonable period of time. Recent sales attempts by neighbours have seen properties sit for years unable to be sold. This would absolutely devastate my family financially if we need to move and must sell for a reduced value. It is a terrible injustice that Glencore seeks to operate this mine with the intention of creating billions of dollars profit and local residents are the ones the most negatively impacted. We have sought advice from our real estate agent that our properties value would be reduced if the mine goes ahead.
7. We have heard gossip from mine employees about the local residents that complain about mine operations to Mangoola. This is downright bullying and scaremongering so that people are too ashamed or scared to complain. I fear the impact of a boycott on our successful local business from mine employees if they were to learn we opposed the mine. We have a right to work and operate a business without this stress and fear. The worry and concern that this issue has had on us is immeasurable. We are very decent, hardworking local people who do not deserve to be caught up in this projects evaluation.
8. The time taken and stress caused by having to evaluate and oppose this mine continuation has had a huge impact on my family's day to day lives. We receive no compensation or apology even for the disruption this proposal has had on our lives.
9. I have school aged children studying for their HSC, one in Year 10 and another in Year 7. My children have lost sleep from mining noise and the worry about our future on our farm. They are all adamant that they do not want to be surrounded by more mines and find it inexcusable that the Government would allow mines to operate in the manner they do. I am ashamed of the damage to the environment that the children of today and the future will inherit!!!
10. I reject the notion that the mine employs local people. I know for a fact that many of the mine employees live in the lower hunter and travel to the mine each day. If the miners feel so strongly that it is safe and acceptable to live near a mine, they should all live here too!

Our family life feels like it is on hold, for what may yet be years. We live in fear of the unknown. Should I renovate my bathroom, plant trees, lay new carpet? Is it just futile? We want out, we want this over and we want to get on with our lives. I strongly recommend the department should reject this proposed mining extension.

Regards,

Karen Dimmock