



question contains squirrel gliders and koalas, vulnerable species being supported by a small biodiverse area in an otherwise heavily cleared landscape. The proponent has suggested that offsets be provided to mitigate the effect clearing will have on local biodiversity. The mine has purchased an offset site, but apart from that has not provided the necessary environmental information to allow for scrutiny as to its suitability. Offsets have proven to be frequently ineffective as a strategy to mitigate the effects of land clearing, and are often regarded as being a

means of avoiding an environmental issue by buying a way out of it. Unless evidence to the contrary is produced, this could be what is happening in this instance.

Impact on local residents: Local residents have justifiably been highly concerned about the impact the proposed mine will have on their environment, their water supply and their quality of life. There is no reason not to believe that the impacts of this mine will be any different to any other mine, which will include unacceptable noise levels, dust, air and light pollution, impacts on domestic and stock water supplies and loss of land values. It is not acceptable to destroy the lifestyle of a community for the sake of a few jobs and short term profit.

Conclusion: This mine should not proceed. The short term financial gain and the limited employment opportunities it will provide do not justify the impact it will have on the local water supply, the loss of biodiversity of the site and the negative impact it will have on the local community.

Yours sincerely

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