



Glendell Continued Operations Project

THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Geoff Stevenson | Glendell Continued Operations Project | January 1, 2020

Introduction

My name is Geoff Stevenson. I have been employed by Glencore for over 18 months and have lived in Singleton for just over eight years. I moved to Singleton due to employment in the coal industry. Although I am not employed at Glendell Mine or Mount Owen Complex, this project does have an effect on myself and my family. This is a submission in support of the Glendell Continued Operations Project.

Overview of Glendell Mine Continuation

The application proposes to continue the mining of the Glendell Pit, to the north of its current location. This will result in an extraction of 140 million tonnes (Mt) of coal. It will extend the life of the Glendell Pit by 20 years, and will extend the life of the Mount Owen Coal Handling and Prep Plant (CHPP) by 8 years. It will allow Glendell pit to operate until 2044. It will not however, lead to an increase in the total annual production output of the Mount Owen CHPP (up to 17 Mtpa). The extension will, unfortunately, encroach into the historic Ravensworth Homestead.

Economic benefits of the continuation

The Hunter Valley is a great place to live and to raise a family. There are lots of well-paid jobs and economic opportunities for both skilled and unskilled workers. House prices are very reasonable and the cost of living is relatively low. There is a lot to see and do in the Hunter Valley. My wife has her own domestic cleaning business and she is overwhelmed with the amount of work which is available in Singleton; a small town of approximately twenty-thousand residents. A lot of this work comes from employees in the local coal industry. The transient nature of mining workers ensures a steady supply of cleaning work in the vacated residential properties. We hope that one day, I can get my children well-paid employment in the local coal industry. It is important for our children's future that projects such as the Glendell Mine Continuation are approved, so that our local coal mines can continue to operate for decades into the future. We have two children; a son (six years old) and a daughter (two years old).

The continuation of the Glendell pit will deliver millions of dollars in economic benefit to both the state of NSW, and to the entire nation. The state of NSW will benefit from increased mining royalties and payroll tax. Personal income taxes from employees, as well as corporate taxes paid to the federal government will benefit the country.

Ravensworth Homestead

It is unfortunate that the mining continuation will eventually extend into the area of the Ravensworth Homestead. The project's Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) does highlight that Glencore has committed to funding relocation costs of the homestead.

This submission supports the relocation of the homestead. The homestead should be kept within the Singleton LGA, and be as close as is practical to its current location. It is suggested that the homestead be turned into a museum, with ease of public access, next to the New England Highway. Access should be free of charge, and the maintenance and upkeep should be wholly funded by Glencore.

Conclusion

This submission supports the application for the Glendell Continued Operations Project, in its current form. The project will deliver economic and social benefits to the local community. It is suggested that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment approve this application in a timely manner.