IPC Submission for Mangoola Mine Expansion

My name is Kim Nightingale and we are 157 on the Mangoola mine map. I oppose the expansion of Mangoola Mine.

I along with my husband and 2 children will be adversely affected by Mangoola Coal if this expansion is approved.

I can not understand why Mangoola Mine are even given the consideration of an expansion given the close proximity to residents. What happened to the buffer zone which was put in place many years ago where if a mine was to expand and if residents were within a few kilometres away from the pitt, the mine would purchase their property at a reasonable amount so they could re-locate.

With this proposed expansion, we would be 800 to 1000m away from the pitt and being extremely close poses quite a few concerns, amongst those concerns are the noise, the noise would be unbearable, I can not imagine the noise of the mining machinery working so close to our property as we are presently a couple of kilometres away and I can hear the machinery quite clearly. My children catch the bus at the front gate and can hear the mining machinery very clearly when they are waiting for the bus.

The traffic would be increased to what is already over the desired amount on the local roads and some of them are one lane and one and a half lane roads and in the condition of the roads this would be unsatisfactory. Again there would be a safety issue as well, the roads which are not in great state at the moment, with increased traffic on the pot holed bumpy roads can not cope with the increased traffic load.

Another major concern is our waterbore on our property which is our main source of water, the waterbore is 85 metres deep and connected to the Sydney basin underground river which the Wybong Creek is also connected to. Looking at the underground river map, the proposed expansion runs right through the underground river which would obviously destroy the river, therefore would destroy a valuable water source for us and many, many other people. We have had the water tested and the volume of water that comes out of the bore is huge. Prior to early 2020, the majority of Australia experienced probably the worst drought in living history and the thought of Mangoola Mine digging up a major water source for many people and with this particular underground river which has an extensive volume of water, is absolutely outrageous and if every Australian knew that this was proposed, I am sure there would be absolute outrage. Water is gold. Properties with their own access to readily available water like a bore, river access or creek access are sought after. Because without water – we have no crops, without water – we have no animals, without water we have no life.

Another concern is the proposed closure of Post Office Road as it provides a route for those residents on the north side and Yarraman Road. It was advised that Mangoola Mine quoted to spend 2 million to upgrade Yarraman Road which has a deep causeway but the true cost is about 10 times that amount.

There is a misconception that the mine provides jobs in the local area, the majority of employees of the mines don’t live in the local area, they live in Newcastle or surrounds. This misconception is being driven by the mine themselves to mislead the media, mislead the broader community and people that have no knowledge of the area. This in effect is deceiving the local town, it‘s economy, the towns growth and local businesses outside of mining.

The massive holes the mine leaves behind are unsightly. How are the huge holes in the ground going to be rehabilitated? Put simply they can not. I struggle with the visual impact it has for the local residents, the local community and the visitors passing through. It’s a disgrace to know what the Hunter Valley once looked like and what it looks like now – massive holes in the ground which will remain there forever. This is what we have left for future generations.

I do believe the local area has exceeded the mining threshold and should stop future mines and stop any future expansions and indeed this proposed expansion at Mangoola Mine.