



GLENDALL COAL MINE PROPOSAL REFUSED DUE TO HERITAGE IMPACTS

28 October 2022

The NSW Independent Planning Commission has today determined to refuse the proposed Glendell Continued Operations Project (SSD 9349) and associated modification to the Mount Owen Continued Operations consent (SSD-5850-Mod-4) finding that the project “is not in the public interest, despite its likely benefits” as the mine would have “significant, irreversible and unjustified impacts on the historic heritage values of the Ravensworth Homestead complex”.

A three-member Commission Panel, comprising Dianne Leeson (Chair), Professor Snow Barlow and Adrian Pilton, heard evidence from a wide range of stakeholders, including the applicant (Glencore), the Department of Planning and Environment, Heritage NSW, the NSW Heritage Council, Singleton Council and representatives from local Aboriginal groups. The Commission also accepted additional material comprising a report on Aboriginal heritage on a confidential basis from the Commonwealth government.

The Commission conducted a site inspection and held a Public Hearing in March 2022. Across three separate public submission periods, the Commission received 899 written submissions, including 282 objections, 580 in support and 24 neutral submissions, and a further 13 submissions in response to specific heritage materials.

In its [Statement of Reasons for Decision](#), the Commission found that the Ravensworth Homestead complex, which is comprised of colonial buildings and gardens and located approximately in the centre of the proposed mine site, has high to exceptional heritage value in its existing historic location and setting. The complex, including the main house built in 1832, would need to be relocated for the project to proceed. This impact could be avoided by an appropriate buffer area around the Ravensworth Homestead complex in which mining is prohibited. However, the Commission heard evidence that such a buffer would render mining operations economically unviable.

The Commission found that “the removal of the Ravensworth Homestead complex and associated heritage from the Site would constitute a significant loss to future generations”. In consideration of heritage impacts, the Commission found that “the site is not suitable for the development” and the project “is not in the public interest”. The Commission also considers that the project would harm Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

The Commission acknowledged that “the project would result in positive employment and economic and social benefits”. It found that the other key issues associated with the proposed mine – including greenhouse gas emissions, mine rehabilitation, water and biodiversity impacts, social impacts, and issues associated with traffic and transport, noise, vibration, air quality and visual impacts – could be appropriately managed, if the significant and irreversible impacts to historic heritage could have been avoided.

All the documents relating to the assessment and determination of this proposal can be found on the Commission’s website: <https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2022/02/glendell-continued-operations-project-ssd-9349>

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