

From Marg Mclean, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2022  
Glendell Mine Public Hearing cover letter and supplementary material

Dear Commissioners,

As I intimated at the time, the transcript of my submission to you in the online Public Hearing on the proposed Continuation of Operations of the Glendell Coal Mine (Friday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021) requires supplementary material to give the context for comprehensively conveying my essential position that I put to you. **We cannot proceed with business as usual.** The consequences of our past decisions, the impact they have on our current environment, are starkly apparent. We can no longer try to ignore them.

I attach the scan of page 6 from the current edition of *The Coalface*. Not only is it a story of private but deemed public interest presented from a simple economic perspective but it also limits consideration of heritage value to European culture only.

I call upon the NSW IPC to consider **the actual public interest MUST include limiting exacerbation of global heating to the greatest extent possible by not approving any more coal extraction.** There can be no confidence in the cost/benefit analyses provide by Glencore. There can be no confidence in sustained employment in the coal industry.

I call upon the IPC to recognise it is in **the public interest to acknowledge the truth of the violent dispossession of Wonnarua people** in the consideration of the impact on the cultural heritage values of the site.

And I seek to provide the IPC with some material to enhance your understanding of the impact on biodiversity of any further destruction of the forest and woodland remaining on the Hunter Valley floor. I contend that the use of the Biodiversity Assessment Method and the concept of 'offsets' and biodiversity credits obscures the reality of the consequences of the last two hundred years and particularly the last twenty years of European land management and exploitation. Use of this method producing a perfunctory Biodiversity Assessment Report from the Planning Department for the IPC misleads the IPC if the actual desired outcome is to mitigate the impact, particularly if this mitigation is intended to maintain or improve the chances that threatened flora and fauna species populations will survive. The extensive clearing of the Hunter Valley floor vegetation and an inadequate reserve system that is not comprehensive nor representative means there is simply not enough protected habitat to support viable populations of many species.

The Comprehensive Regional Assessment of the forests and woodlands of North East NSW in the late 1990s is described in *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: science, process and politics in forestry reform and the implications for conservation of forest fauna in north-east New South Wales* (Conservation of Australia's Forest Fauna, second edition 2004 Ed D Lunney, Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales). (p222-255, Flint C, Pugh D & Beaver B))  
<https://meridian.allenpress.com/rzsnsw-other-books/book/605/chapter/12050411/The-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-science-process-and>

The Upper Hunter Strategic Assessment (circa 2014) was seemingly only completed to the extent that it could be seen to be too limiting on development to respect the conservation of biodiversity and was never made public. This was how business was done, this must be turned around.

The presence of Critically Endangered Ecological Communities must be a red flag to stop development.

The Ravensworth Homestead should remain in situ.

Glendell Mine should close in 2023 as planned.

If the IPC can accept their responsibility to leave the coal in the ground at this mine site and refuse all other applications not yet approved, we are doing the best we can in the public interest for a safe climate.

Without the GCO Project, mining at Glendell is estimated to be completed in approximately 2023, which means employment opportunities will be lost and the community will miss out on enormous future economic benefits.

If approved the project will see continuation of open cut mining to the north of the existing mine over a period of 21 years realising an additional 135 Mt of coal.

**THIS WILL BE A GREAT OUTCOME FOR THE LOCAL WORKERS, COMMUNITIES, AND THE HARDWORKING SUPPLIER BUSINESSES IN OUR AREA.**

Over its life, the project will provide employment opportunities of, up to 690 jobs. It will also see the creation of up to approximately 350 construction jobs (peak) over the estimated 3-year construction period

The net financial benefits in Net Present Value (NPV) terms over the life of the project are significant: \$446.7 million to the Lower Hunter region, \$1.12 billion to NSW, and royalty revenue to the NSW Government estimated to be \$282.4 million.

In 2020, Glendell spent over \$39 million on wages and salaries and over \$120 million on goods and services with 380 suppliers. That's money that goes predominately straight back into the community. Money the community simply can't afford to lose.

**GLENCORE'S GLENDELL EMPLOYEES ARE PART OF THE HUNTER VALLEY COMMUNITY.**

72% of the existing Glendell

workforce live within the Local Government Areas of Singleton (32%), Maitland (21%), Cessnock (14%) and Muswellbrook (5%). These are people who work here, live here, raise their families here, and all contribute to making our region a place to be proud of.

For regular readers of @ The Coalface, you will often come across stories about the community support that Glendell mine and its workforce are regularly involved in. But you might not realise just how substantial it is with over \$200,000 of funding and grants to various local community-based initiatives and groups.

Glendell is an operation that uses industry-leading rehabilitation practice to ensure they will meet their final land use outcome. Just last year at the 2021 NSW DPIE RR Rehab Forum, the Mt Owen/Glendell Operation (MGO) was presented as a case study to 400 plus delegates in attendance for their exemplary work in rehabilitation. Their commitment to responsible mining is amongst the best in the world.

There has also been some contention around the proposed relocation of Ravensworth Homestead as readers would know. The Homestead must be relocated to allow the GCO Project to go ahead as it sits squarely within the mine plan.

The Homestead was acquired by Glencore in 1997 and since then, Glencore has undertaken extensive repair and restoration works, recognising the historical importance of the Homestead. Working with an advisory

committee, the Homestead relocation is planned to preserve its heritage value while enabling public access to these historical buildings. A bright future for the Homestead is of the highest priority and all involved fully understand its importance. That future will be meticulously preserved and should be for future generations.

Glencore put forward two proposals for the Homestead's relocation - one at Ravensworth Farm, the other in Broke. Of these, the DPIE believes the Ravensworth Farm option should be the preferred relocation option.

**CHRIS GERARD IS THE OPERATIONS MANAGER AT GLENDELL AND HAS BEEN WORKING TOWARDS ENSURING THAT THE GCO PROJECT IS APPROVED.**

"Over the last four years, we've been working on a project to continue mining to the north of our existing operations. This means further

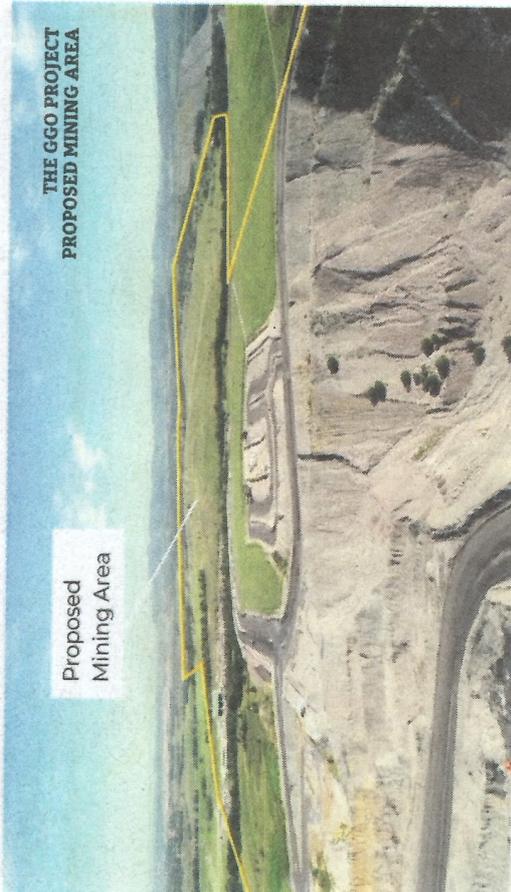
employment opportunities, and continued support for more than 300 local businesses across the region."

"We're proud of what we do and the contribution we make to the Hunter Valley and hope our Mount Owen and Glendell operations continue to play a role within the local community."

If you feel strongly about the benefits of the GCO Project, the environmental assessment undertaken, or Glendell's existing contribution to the local community and wish to show your support, you can make a submission to the IPC or speak at the upcoming Public Hearing outlining your views.

The IPC is required to consider all submissions made as part of the assessment of mining projects, so your views and opinions really do matter. I'm pretty sure you can guess what our submission will say. Approval for the GCO Project is a no-brainer.

Go Glendell!



THE GCO PROJECT PROPOSED MINING AREA

THE IPC HEARING WILL BE HELD ONLINE OVER TWO DAYS ON FRIDAY MARCH 18 AND MONDAY MARCH 21.

SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE BY USING THE FORM ON THE IPC WEBSITE AT [WWW.IPCN.NSW.GOV.AU/HAVEYOURSAY](http://WWW.IPCN.NSW.GOV.AU/HAVEYOURSAY).

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS CLOSES AT 5PM ON MONDAY MARCH 28.