

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.