

## **NO CONSULTATION AT ALL**

I feel I must make comment on the advertised community consultation exercise being undertaken by Xstrata Mangoola (Anvil Hill) - their claim being to keep the community informed as to progress with the proposed mine.

**Just what they are really doing is TELLING US what IS GOING to happen—not consult with us at all.**

Or Perhaps they are going to show us how their ugly mine will not impact on our glorious views, or pollute our water and air with their noxious dirt and gasses.

Or how they are not going to ruin the habitat of our unique flora and fauna—at present the wattles are making a beautiful spring show—that wont happen in a few moments time, and I am sure all the community, including the regulars who use the Wybong Road will miss the message given by the wattle that spring is here.

The message given by Xstrata at a recent meeting I attended with them was that they will not be able to mitigate the effects of their dirty, dusty coal mine—unless we stay inside our houses with the air conditioner going and our double glazed windows to lower the noise.

**We might as well be prisoners in our own homes.**

How can our governments condone yet another mine in our already over-polluted Upper Hunter?

How many of our newly elected councillors will have the interest of the community of Wybong in the forefront of their minds when considering more amendments to the Mangoola (Anvil Hill) project?

And what do we say to our grandchildren when decisions made now impact on the way of life we have been privileged to lead in our beautiful country?

Climate Change is for real—when will our governments wake up and take steps to reduce the impact by big business driven by money and greed—not by concern for the environment already groaning under the pressure of heavy mining industry?

**Pearl Shorter, Wybong: Article reprinted from Muswellbrook Chronicle Sept 19 2008**

## **XSTRATA COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS**

• No public information on either the Wybong Road Upgrade or Workers Camp is available from XMC or Council yet Xstrata propose to conduct Community Consultation on these items anyway. Xstrata has no plans to further consult or make any Wybong Road Upgrade or Workers Camp information publicly available. The Community Consultation Sessions are Xstrata's usual con job and should be responded to with a written objection to Xstrata and Department of Planning with your demand for a proper program of Community Consultation.

### **For your own safety our Group recommends:**

- Do not attend on your own, go in groups, take a record of what is said by Xstrata,
- Xstrata will record and report your name to the Department of Planning with the comment that you fully agreed with their proposal and raised no objections, **do not give your name to Xstrata,**
- Prepare any objections to the project or questions beforehand and take a written copy to give to Xstrata requesting answers be published in the Hunter Valley News for all to see.

## **XSTRATA ARE SNAKES NOT TO BE TRUSTED**

### **RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT TO DEPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

In response to our complaint regarding Xstrata imposing on Council an employee to expedite Xstrata approvals the Department of Local Government has replied dated 5/9/8 as follows:

"The Department has reviewed the MOU and made inquiries of council in relation to your concerns. Council has advised that the 'project officer' position referred to in the MOU is not a development assessment officer position. Rather the MOU requires Xstrata to provide funding for council to retain the services of a consultant engineer to oversee the roadworks referred to in the MOU. The Councils General Manager has advised that the person retained will ultimately report to Councils Director of Community Infrastructure and will have no direct relationship with Xstrata. In light of the above information the Department does not propose to take any further action in relation to this matter."

As a result of the stand taken by our Group the additional Council employee is now wholly independent of Xstrata. A substantial victory given Xstrata's original proposal below:

"2. Project Officer

Xstrata understands MSC's current staffing levels and overall development pressures and has agreed to fund up to a maximum of \$70,000 per year for employment of an additional staff member for the duration of the construction project or as required to assist with provision of approvals required by this MOU. The Project Officer will be solely dedicated to assisting with approvals, licences, certificates for the Mangoola Project."



# Wybong Action Group

*Incorporated*

**Newsletter 2, Sept. 2008**  
from the Presidents Desk

## **INSIDE:**

- Response to Complaint by Dept Local Government
- Attending the Community Consultation ? Recommendations to deal with the farce.
- Action you can take NOW.
- Membership Form
- Petition Report



## **ACTION YOU CAN TAKE NOW**

**Its not too late to stop the destruction of the old growth woodland habitat and our environment at Anvil Hill. You can make the difference by contacting:**

NSW Governor, Hon Marie Bashir (02) 9242 4200

Local Member George Souris -  
upperhunter@parliament.nsw.gov.au (02) 6543 1065

Dr Bob Brown (Greens-Federal)  
senator.bob.brown@aph.gov.au (02) 6277 3170

Peter Garret (Federal Environment Minister)  
(02) 6277 7640

NSW Dept Planning— information@planning.nsw.gov.au  
(02) 9228 6111

Xstrata Mining Company—  
mangoolaenquiries@xstratacoal.com.au 1800 014 339

**A Sample of Xstrata's Proud Global Environmental & Community Safety Record**

11 March 2005, Sydney – The NSW Industrial Commission today imposed a record \$1.47M fine on Xstrata over the deaths of four coal miners killed at the Gretley mine on 14 November 1996.

In the media CFMEU Northern Division Vice President Ian Murray described Xstrata as "morally bankrupt" and "a corporate thug". There is no doubt that many in the community and throughout the mining workforce agree with him. Xstrata's challenge and its callous treatment of the Gretely victims families has provoked enormous resentment among rank and file mineworkers. May 2005

Xstrata proposal for mining in the tropical McArthur river violates indigenous rights and threatens proposed Marine Protected Area. Dec 21 2006

Xstrata Copper is likely going to exploit copper and gold resources in Mindanao (Philippines) using open pit mining method even as the company is confronted with the project's high arsenic (one of the most toxic elements found in the earth) content, company officials said despite the staunch opposition of local Catholic Church leaders. Dec 17 2007

Communist rebels in the Philippines have attacked a copper mine controlled by Xstrata and threatened further violence against "foreign capitalists" exploiting the country's natural resources...The group described the latest raid as "an important milestone in the effort to put a stop to the firm's destructive and plunderous mining operations, defend the ancestral domain of the B'laan tribe; [and] protect the environmental balance..."

**Xstrata is being sued over severely elevated lead levels in the Mt Isa children. "Xstrata is heavily subsidised by the people of Queensland for the profits of its shareholders in Switzerland," he said.**

**"In return, Xstrata force the children of Mount Isa to eat, drink, breathe, bathe and play in Xstrata's toxic waste—that Xstrata create but won't clean up." Slater & Gordon, April 11 2008**

...the Federal Chambers of Tucumán in Argentina brought criminal charges of environmental contamination against Julián Rooney, Vice-President of Bajo La Alumbraera, Argentina's largest mining operation...the company will appeal the ruling...This is the first ruling in all of Latin America against a mining company for crimes against the environment...Alumbraera was dumping millions of litres of toxic liquid wastes into DP2, a canal used by animals and farmers But when the mine closes in five years, Alumbraera (Xstrata, Goldcorp and Yamana) is not obligated to clean up or pay for restoration costs Alumbraera is joint-owned by three of the largest metals mining transnationals: Xstrata, Goldcorp and Yamana Gold. 18 Jun 2008

A US\$25 million mine owned by Swiss company Xstrata is accused of overexposing miners to vanadium pentoxide and other dangerous chemicals that have caused asthma, cancer and chemical bronchitis. South Africa.

And on it goes.....

**Xstrata's primary management concern is for the annual financial dividend of its shareholders.**

**The longer term shareholder financial liability and cost to humanity of ruined environments, poisoned employees and terminally ill communities mean nothing to Xstrata.**

**Xstrata = GLOBAL GREED.**

The Petition for the upgrade of Wybong Road gathered 160 signatures, an excellent result that will be forwarded to Hon George Souris, Member for Upper Hunter, for lodging with the NSW Parliament during the current parliamentary sittings. Thankyou to all who signed.

Like to become a Wybong Action Group member?  
Ordinary Membership is \$2 per person single or \$5 per family, pa. Affiliate (Organisation) Membership is \$20pa. Donations accepted with thanks. A receipt is provided for all cash contributions and membership fees.

To Join the Wybong Action Group:  
fill in and tear off the section below and send it together with the appropriate membership amount by money order (do not send cash by mail) to "Wybong Action Group, C/ 740 Ridglands Road, Manobalai NSW, 2333".

Name	Address	MType	Phone	email



Printed by:

Wybong Action Group Incorporated.

Ph: 02 65478090 (ah)

email: wag@bluemaxx.com.au

mail: C/ 740 Ridglands Road, Wybong NSW 2333