

Wybong Action Group

From: Wybong Action Group [wag@bluemaxx.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 22 May 2009 12:15 AM
To: 'Phil Jones'
Cc: Chris Gidney; Grant Farrar; Mayor Martin Rush; council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: Anvil Hill 06_0014 Community Consultation
Attachments: Email Missing Traffic Management Plan, Mangoola Coal Project, Early Works Program, Sept 2008.pdf

(Corrected copy)

Hello Phil,

A final email to be specific on about what, to whom and when Xstrata Mangoola P/L have consulted, a request for Community Consultation and further request (if necessary) for a Departmental or Independent Audit of the quantum and adequacy of the Xstrata Mangoola P/L Community Consultation - Wybong Road Major Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] - Process.

The concerns raised by Wybong Action Group are in relation to the complete lack of consultation and bypassing of the Wybong Community - which is that Community that remains in the Yarraman, Brogheda and Manobalai Parishes of Muswellbrook Shire and the adjoining Upper Hunter Shire Parish of Cuan Cua – by Xstrata Mangoola P/L.

A large percentage of the residents of these Shire areas are dependent on, and daily users, of Wybong Road for employment, rural, domestic and commercial needs and as a statistical group they form a substantial portion of the quantum of Wybong Road users.

Xstrata, Council and the & RTA are well aware, via planning and traffic studies, that the employment, commercial and service hubs for the many Shire residents of Yarraman, Brogheda, Manobalai and Cuan Cua Parishes are Muswellbrook and Sandy Hollow - via Wybong Road, and that Denman is an infrequent destination. A large number of these residents are also located in the Mangoola “Management Zone” - yet all are ignored to the degree of contempt by Xstrata Mangoola P/L.

In their reply to you Xstrata Mangoola P/L have KNOWINGLY misrepresented to you the Community Consultation - Wybong Road Major Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] – Process which they have adopted.

For specific example:

Subsequent to the Early Works approval on 22 July 2008:

- Fact: Three “Community Information Sessions” have been held
All were held EXCLUSIVELY in Denman, at different locations, on one day each only, for four hours each only, NONE concerned the Major Wybong Road Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road], NONE were held at Wybong Public Hall.
- Fact: The “Mangoola News” has been issued ONCE (Jan 2009)
The Major Wybong Road Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] was NOT mentioned therein.
- Fact: The MCCCC has met on three occasions.
The Major Wybong Road Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] was NOT mentioned therein.
- Fact: Xstrata have ONLY met with some residents along Wybong Road East (between Bengalla Link Rd and Mangoola Mine Access Road only – only to offer to seal their driveways to their road reserve boundary)

No public meetings concerning The Major Wybong Road Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] were held with any residents or Wybong Road users of Yarraman, Brogheda, Manobalai or Cuan Cua Parishes

- Fact: Distribution of Flyers

Some flyers were distributed in a very small selection of the parish of Wybong. No flyers were received by any residents in Brogheda, Manobalai or Cuan Cua Parishes.

(added) None of the Flyers concerned The Major Wybong Road Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road]

This is why we have written to you. To express our dissatisfaction and our commonly held fears for our safety, held by the large number of Yarraman, Brogheda, Manobalai and Cuan Cua Parish residents and Wybong Road users who have NOT BEEN CONSULTED regarding the major changes taking place and pending for Wybong Road from Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road.

I refer you also as a direct and pertinent example of the direct consequences of Xstrata Mangoola P/L's non-consultation (the Safety Incident at the relocated Castlerock School Road Bus Stop) detailed in my intervening email of 17/5/2009 (Missing Traffic Management Plan, Traffic Control Plan & Community Consultation Schedule for Wybong Road Upgrade), which is attached. We fear repetition and loss of life as a direct consequence of the continuance of Xstrata Mangoola P/L to NOT CONSULT with Yarraman, Brogheda, Manobalai and Cuan Cua Parish residents and Wybong Road users.

We rely upon the NSW Department of Planning to ensure that Yarraman, Brogheda, Manobalai and Cuan Cua Parish residents and majority Wybong Road Users, are fully consulted about, and informed of pending road changes, to ensure their safety and the safety of all users of Wybong Road, during the lengthy 8-12 month Wybong Road Upgrade wherein rural, residential and unfamiliar road users will be in the minute view with ever changing road conditions and pathways between, amongst and through heavy road construction machinery and mine related traffic, on what effectively is a seven km long, major construction site.

To date adequate community consultation for the Major Wybong Road (from Bengalla Link Rd to the Mine Access Road) Upgrade HAS NOT OCCURRED as we believe any Departmental or Independent Audit of the 'Consultation Process for the Major Wybong Road (Bengalla Link Rd to the Mine Access Road) Upgrade' would confirm.

We believe that the Department of Planning, given such full and accurate detail of the Community Consultation - Wybong Road Major Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road] Process conducted by Xstrata Mangoola P/L, such as we have detailed to you, can only find that Xstrata Mangoola P/L have not adequately consulted the Wybong (and wider Wybong Road User) Community and we rely on the instruction of the Department of Planning for Xstrata Mangoola P/L to be compelled to do so.

Noting:

Traffic Management Plan, Mangoola Coal Project, Early Works Program, Sept 2008

S3.3, p8 "Upgrade works on Wybong Road WILL require separate Traffic Management & Traffic Control Plans.",

S3.6, p8 "This TMP ONLY relates to access and traffic arrangements as part of the Mangoola Coal Early Works Program".,

There is NO publicly available Consultation Schedule, Traffic Management Plan or Roadworks Construction Plan for the Wybong Road Major Upgrade [Bengalla Link Rd to Mangoola Mine Access Road].

Sincerely,
John Shewan
President
Wybong Action Group

(attached email of 17/5/2009 Missing Traffic Management Plan, Traffic Control Plan & Community Consultation Schedule for Wybong Road Upgrade).

From: Phil Jones [mailto:Phil.Jones@planning.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2009 3:18 PM
To: Wybong Action Group
Subject: Re: Anvil Hill 06_0014 Community Consultation

John,

Apologies for the delay in responding to this email but I have been on leave.

The issues raised in your email have been taken up with Xstrata.

Xstrata has noted that it has undertaken a number of community consultation activities in relation to the upgrade of Wybong Road and the early works, including:

- community information sessions;
- distribution of its 'Mangoola News' to residents;
- presentations at CCC meetings;
- meetings with residents along Wybong Road East;
- distribution of flyers to residents on local roads; and
- flyers, letters and meetings with bus service providers and users.

Whilst the Department is generally satisfied with this level of consultation, it has reminded Xstrata of its responsibilities to keep the local community informed about the project.

Xstrata has also noted that further enquiries can be made to its Community Enquiries email or Community Response telephone line:

- mangoolaenquiries@xstratacoal.com.au;
- 1800 014 339.

I note that you have also made separate representations directly to Xstrata recently.

I trust this assists.

Regards,
Phil

Phil Jones
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Department of Planning
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>>> "Wybong Action Group" <wag@bluemaxx.com.au> 26/04/2009 01:07 >>>

Dear Mr Jones,

I find it necessary on behalf, and on request, of the residents of Brogheda, Wybong, Manobalai and Yarraman Parishes, Muswellbrook Shire, to advise the Department that there has been no consultation with

the residents of these areas by Xstrata (Mangoola) P/L regarding the Upgrade to Wybong Road (from Roxburgh Rd to the Mine Northern Access Rd) which has commenced (the 'Upgrade of Wybong Road' being distinct from the Early Works measures) .

Residents in particular, are disappointed and annoyed at being unconsulted and uninformed by any authority as to:

- the nature, scope and specific features of the major 'Upgrade Roadworks' to be carried out to the carriageway and alignment of Wybong Road,
- the indicative timeframe for specific features of the 'Upgrade' roadwork to be carried out on Wybong Road,
- the plan for safe and efficient management of domestic traffic flows (which have definitive, tidal, am & pm peaks) during the period of roadwork,
- the un-notified and previously unidentified changes to adjoining roads including realignments to be made to the intersection of Ridgeland Road and Wybong Road,
- consideration given, if any, to the Council identified likelihood of marked increases in traffic volumes over and above those considered in the original and modified EA 's resulting from the interplay of;
 - the improvement of Wybong Road,
 - the interlinking of Wybong Road, Bengalla Link Rd and Thomas Mitchell Drive producing a route linking the Golden Highway at Sandy Hollow with the New England Highway at Antienne, via Muswellbrook Industrial Estate, allowing heavy vehicles to avoid the frequent SPV loads, single lanes and steep grades of the Golden Highway at Arrowfield and Ogilvie Hill,
 - the completion of the B-Double carrying capacity Bylong Valley Way and access to the New England Highway and Northern Tablelands,
 - and the effect of these factors on the conclusions of the Traffic Study contained in the EA's.
- the instruction given by Xstrata (Mangoola) P/L to parties undertaking the Upgrade works that they are "not to speak to residents".

The residents of Brogheda, Wybong, Manobalai and Yarraman Parishes, Muswellbrook Shire, would appreciate being consulted and informed and having the opportunity to view and comment on documents such as a 'Traffic Management Plan for the Wybong Road Upgrade – Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road' and overview and detail drawings of the 'Wybong Road - Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road - Upgrade Works' prior to works being carried out.

Such documents were provided prior to determination of the Modification (MOD1). The original EA and Traffic Management Plan (Early Works) contained ONLY obscure details of the 'Wybong Road - Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road - Upgrade Works' and indicated that more detailed information would be provided for consultation and information PRIOR TO the commencement of Upgrade work, following further investigation of the existing road infrastructure. This has not been the case.

The residents of Brogheda, Wybong, Manobalai and Yarraman Parishes, Muswellbrook Shire, feel particularly let down by the lack of consideration shown by all concerned with the 'Wybong Road - Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road Upgrade' particularly as the residents of these areas are the predominant rate paying, daily users of this section of Wybong Road and are reliant on timely, efficient and generally unimpeded access to Wybong Road on a daily basis for their employment, educational, social and commercial existence.

Such oversight does not enhance the community opinion of Xstrata Plc as a responsible corporate citizen with any concern for its impact on the community but further engenders ill will.

The residents of Brogheda, Wybong, Manobalai and Yarraman Parishes, Muswellbrook Shire, would appreciate if the Department could convey their need for information and consultation regarding a 'Traffic Management Plan for the Wybong Road Upgrade – Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road' and overview and detailed information on the 'Wybong Road - Roxburgh Road to Mangoola Mine Northern Access Road - Upgrade Works' to the management of Xstrata (Mangoola) P/L as a required component of the Condition of Consent requiring ongoing and effective community consultation,, consultation that residents of Brogheda, Wybong, Manobalai and Yarraman Parishes, Muswellbrook Shire, have thus far been denied.

Sincerely,

John Shewan

President

Wybong Action Group.

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