

# COMMUNITY ACTION



There has been concerted community opposition to the two mines since 2010 from all sectors of the community including local farmers, Traditional Owners and environmentalists. #LeardBlockade, the first coal mine blockade camp in Australia, started on the 5th of August 2012.

Non Violent Direct Actions have been varied and have included mass walk-ons, tree-sits, lock-ons and the infamous hoax media release by Jono Moylan.

Participants are equally varied and have included local farmers, Russ Watts (84yo birdwatcher), Bill Ryan (92yo WW2 Vet), Marion Rose (former DPP solicitor), Raymond McLaren (75yo Business owner), Religious leaders, Medics, Mothers and the superhero BatGrrrls.

The Leard Forest Alliance formed in December 2013 and includes Greenpeace, Lock the Gate, 350.org, TWS, AYCC, ASEN, Quit Coal and other organisations.

There is a continuous community blockade to stop the mine construction.

## Come and join us to stop this devastating project!

# WE NEED YOUR HELP

There are many things you can do to help save Leard State Forest:

- Come and visit camp Wando
- Participate in Non-Violent Direct Action
- Mobilise your friends, family and community
- Donate
- Organise a local protest action
- Organise a fundraiser
- Organise an awareness raising event
- Lobby Politicians and Whitehaven Coal
- Divest your money away from coal

For more info on how you can help visit:

[frontlineaction.org/get-involved](http://frontlineaction.org/get-involved)



Front Line Action on Coal @ Camp Wando  
Black Mountain Creek Rd, Maules Creek NSW

# frontlineaction.org

- [maulescreek.org](http://maulescreek.org)
- [twitter.com/FLACCoal](https://twitter.com/FLACCoal)
- [youtube.com/FLACCoal](https://youtube.com/FLACCoal)
- [facebook.com/frontlineactiononcoal](https://facebook.com/frontlineactiononcoal)
- [frontlineaction@gmail.com](mailto:frontlineaction@gmail.com)

Visit [frontlineaction.org](http://frontlineaction.org) for detailed info, contact details and directions to camp.

# DEFENDING



# Leard State Forest

The largest remnant of bushland left on the Liverpool Plains. Home to over 396 native species, sacred indigenous sites and surrounded by fertile farmland.

Coal miners plan to destroy more than 5000ha of Leard State Forest, including 1,082ha of the Box-gum Woodland, sacred scar trees and burial sites.

The local community faces a future of dangerous coal dust, noise, increased costs and declining productivity.

Hundreds of people have made history by visiting the #LeardBlockade and participated in a variety of activities to stop this destructive project.

## We invite you to take action!



Before



After (artists impression)

## Leard State Forest

The largest area of remnant vegetation remaining in the Liverpool Plains and includes 3,421ha of the nationally-listed and critically endangered Box-Gum Woodland (the most extensive and intact area remaining in Australia). The forest is home to 396 species of plants and animals and includes habitat for 34 threatened species and several endangered ecological communities.

## The Mines

Whitehaven Coal and Idemitsu own two open-cut coal projects in Leard State Forest and one on the edge. These two mines are larger than any existing Hunter Valley mine. The proposed and existing mines will clear 5,000 hectares of bushland – which equates to almost 10,000 football fields or 50,000 standard house blocks.

## Gomeri Country

Leard State Forest contains numerous cultural sites, deep in heritage and history that includes burial sites and scar trees. Whitehaven coal has plans to destroy these site and have already destroyed some significant sites. Elders have been refused to walk on their country and Traditional Owners rights have been disregarded by the federal government.

## Legal Challenges

On the 19th of July 2013, the Northern Inland Council for the Environment lodged a legal challenge against the approval of the Whitehaven Maules Creek coal mine and Idemitsu's Boggabri coal mine. The independent assessment found the offset properties are very different vegetation communities and the unique habitat in the forest would be destroyed. The case was dismissed in January 2014.

## Community Impact

Families that have lived in the region for many generations are being forced to sell up and move. The mines will result in:

- Reduction of underground water table 5-7m
- Up to 18000 tonnes of dangerous dust dropped on the surrounding farms and residents each year
- Increased costs
- Noise from traffic and explosive use
- Declining agricultural productivity

## Climate Change

The Boggabri and Maules Creek mines plan to extract over 22 million tonnes of coal, creating a greenhouse gas impact greater than that of 165 individual nations, including Sweden, Hungary and Finland. In June 2013 the Climate Commission advised at least 80% of coal must be left in the ground to avoid climate catastrophe.

