

Ulan Coal Mine

Ulan Mine is currently owned by Glencore-Xstrata, a one of the world's largest multinational mining companies. Most of its coal operations are in NSW and Queensland.

Mining at Ulan first commenced in the early 1920s with underground board and pillar by a local family using pit ponies to extract the coal. Mining occurred sporadically and supplied the Ulan power station established in the 1940s until the late 1960s.

A major consortium gained approval to develop an open cut mine in 1982. This included White Industries managed by Brian Flannery. The large open cut mine included a diversion of over 3 km of the Goulburn River.

The mine has expanded over time with additional approvals and is now operating two underground mines and a new open cut with approval to mine up to 20 million tonnes of coal per annum until 2032.

The mine has caused significant drawdown in groundwater systems, destroyed the aquifers to the west of the Goulburn River and altered the landscape over many square kilometers.

The latest approvals have required Glencore-Xstrata to rehabilitate the Goulburn River diversion and monitor 'The Drip' for impacts on the groundwater sources.

The mine has also caused health impacts on the local community through dust and noise intrusions. This has resulted in the purchase of many properties and a decrease in the local population.