

Student 6 - High Not Achieved

Coal mining: Giles Creek, Grey Valley

Why?	How?
Quality coal ore Near the surface Roads Workers	Open cast mining Clearing bush Sorting and crushing Transporting

[1]

At the Giles Creek they have made an open cast mine. The first job was to take all the top rock off and then the coal can be blasted out with dynamite [2]. This type of mining affects the environment because the topsoil and plants in the beech forest get removed. Removing the bush affects the birds, possums, and insects... The Giles Creek could get polluted from waste rock and chemicals used at the mine... [3] Ponds are used for the storing of dirty water but after heavy rain these could overflow and pollute the soil...

Coal mining cannot last for ever because it is a non-renewable resource. The land and the bush are renewable and after mining it can be put right... [4]

Pollution of the creek is a risk and if this happens lots of fish and birds could be poisoned which couldn't be replaced later... The last stage in the mining process is rehabilitation this is when the pit can be filled with the waste rock and then native trees can be planted. Small trees can be moved from other parts of the bush and when these grow the opencast mine will not be visible... The Giles Creek environment will be back to how it was before mining [5].