

To
The
COMMISSIONERS.

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BY:

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Yet again I am strongly objecting to the Wilpinjong Pit 8 mine expansion going ahead. I and my partner Denise moved to Wollar in the early 80's to make a home and raise a family we also helped raise our grandchildren here. From day 1 I have been an active member in the community, 25 plus years in the Wollar rural fire brigade 15 plus as a deputy captain a member of the Wollar Progress Association currently the president, also a member of the Wilpinjong mine Community Consultive Committee. Since the mine moved into the area, I have witnessed the decline of the village area, Wollar, Araluen, Cumbo Valley, Slate Gully and Bungulla, where the mine is now situated, people leaving because it is impossible to live with the noise and dust and the strong odour that is a coal mine. This has led to the decline of emergency services, such as the Wollar rural fire brigade, which has been incorporated into the Cooks Gap brigade which looks after the very large area of Cooks Gap Ulan Wollar and maybe Bylong. To get to my property "Roma" from Cooks Gap fire shed could take up to 1 hour or longer depending on the trains as there are 3 rail crossings, 2 on the Ulan-Wollar Rd and 1 at the beginning of Mogo Rd, there is also the chance that Ulan-Wollar road could be closed for up to 30 minutes due to mine blasting which happens often. Yes the mine management has said their workers will be active in the fire brigade but can they be trusted to honour this. when

all they are here for is to dig coal out.

Myself and neighbors had a meeting at my place on the 7th September with Fire control Mudgee National parks and Cooks Gap fire brigade personnel to see if they would help me do a hazard reduction burn next autumn which involves private land and national parks land. The answer was No due to the fact there are not enough people to warrant the cost. The only help offered was A.I.D.E.R. (Assistance for Infirm Disabled and Elderly Residents) this fire season and we were also told that worst case scenario Mogo Rd being oneway in and same way out if the road was closed due to a bad fire we would be by ourselves. This means our properties would not be protected by Cooks Gap RFS or NPWS. This would not have happened if the Wollar fire brigade was still active. 5 land based offset areas near the Goulburn River NP. are properties that had people living there which means less people up Mogo Rd which means more isolation for people remaining up Mogo Rd.

By allowing Pit 8 to go ahead you are destroying the village of Wollar. I don't think the offsets you ask for is enough For the loss of community and village it should be at least a 100 times more or the mine should be made plant trees on the land they own instead of farming cattle.

Eventually the village of Wollar will be a distant memory in the Mid-Western regional council area, but there will still be a few

remaining private land holders on the edge of mine owned land left high and dry with no postal service currently my mail is left at the Wollar shop and once that has closed my mail will have to be left in Mudgee. A mail-box at the beginning of Mogo Rd is not an option.

We have already lost our long-time fire brigade captain, our mechanic, our produce and hardware shop. There are no longer any churches, no vet service and the possible loss of the clinic sister. The school will also go, no-one will be able to live in Wollar with the mine 1.5kms away. Yes, I know the mine has promised more jobs and more money, but all I and others will get is more noise and dust and no community, because of this increased isolation caused by past + present decisions made by governments my property will be a stranded asset.

Wollar, due to its isolation, 50kms from Mudgee, always had a strong social life with inter-village cricket matches, tennis annual Fire brigade ball, fund-raising events, Wollar school Fun Run, movie nights and bushdances etc. Wollar has always been my life line 18kms away. Now I have to travel to Mudgee 70kms for social events which I prefer not to do because the roads I drive have become more dangerous due to mine related traffic. This company (peabody) have a long history of mining for coal and destroying peoples lives and homes. This is very debilitating both mentally and physically. This must be regarded by governments at both levels state and

federal. There must be stronger support for small communities like Wollar from governments in the future. No persons home should be destroyed by big companys.

If the expansion is approved, I believe I should be given acquisition rights. My circumstances of isolation, lack of protection from major fire events, less access to emergency services, no shop no postal services is directly caused by this mine expansion.

I am concerned that with approval the impacts will be greater than predicted because low frequency noise has not been assessed even though it was covered and signed off by the EPA as stated on page 26 in the Wilpinjong extension project. I hear the mine at my property and in some weather conditions it is a low hum or rumble the noise wakes me up. The expansion into Pit 8 with the haul road and ROM pad to the north will increase the noise levels at my property. This has not been assessed. The additional dust is also a problem. I already have coal dust settling on vehicles and out door areas. The cumulative impact of 3 mines in the area hasn't been properly assessed. The pollution from coal mining is a big problem here.

The extension project will make noise and dust worse. I don't want to live with worse mine pollution.

The social and environmental impacts are too great. I want the right to leave if this mine expansion is approved. Acquisition rights must be given to all remaining isolated and stranded land holders

I do not believe that Wollar community will continue to decline if the mine expansion is not approved. Many people would move back into the area if mine impacts are not increased for longer. I disagree with the assessment report when they say in the SIA page 38 to 41 that Windeyer is a village in decline, I was at Windeyer hotel in October for a meal with a friend and it did not look or seem like Windeyer was losing its population as stated on page 40 paragraph 5.

By approving Pit 8 you are allowing the acceleration of climate change and along with this approval you are destroying my home and Wollar village and also accelerating the destruction of your own home. I believe that this company (Peabody) which owns all the land surrounding Wollar, will, while they continue to get approval, keep strip mining for coal, while the governments of the world keep burning coal for electricity. There must be stronger support from the governments for communities like Wollar.

The company has given the last 3 private land holders within the village of Wollar voluntary acquisition rights, why is this offer not extended to the rest of the greater Wollar community so everybody can make their own decision on whether they want to stay or go, or at least some form of compensation for the loss of community and vital services that are required for living in an isolated area.

I have not mentioned a lot of things in this submission but one thing I will mention is

The cumulative effect on the Goulburn River is under-stated. There has been no study that I know of on the long-term effect on the rivers eco system.

Being a long-time land holder (30 plus years) my property "Roma" is situated on the banks of the Goulburn River. When we first moved here we had to rely on sand spears in the summer because there was no water on the surface now the river flows all the time. This may sound like a good thing but for the eco system. is it.

Please, once again this is a submission of objection, do not give approval to Wilpinjong Slate Gully Pit 8 Expansion.

Back in the early 1970s a US folk singer John Prine wrote and sang a protest song called Paradise. Which is about Peabody coal trains hauling a place called Paradise away and leaving big holes in its place and they ruled it as the progress of man. Sound very much like Wollar, to me. Thank you for taking the time to read my submission of objection.

Thank you.

email

phone