

Wilpinjong Extension Project R039-16

Our main objections to the extension project are as follows:

1. Noise and Dust Impact

- Noise has been the biggest impact from the mine. There was *no assessment* of Low Frequency Noise (LFN) impacts of the current mine or the proposed extension. It seems a big oversight that none was done, given the loud machinery used in mining and the 24/7 shifts.
- EPA noise monitoring conducted in June 2016 demonstrated that LFN is an issue. The noise assessment must be redone to include LFN predictions.
- The proposal to shift \$42m of noise mitigation costs onto community health impacts is irresponsible and should not be approved.
- Dust emissions are predicted to increase and exceed the 24 hr PM10 criteria. Protecting community health should be a prime consideration of decision-makers. There have been studies showing long-term effects on the respiratory systems of those living nearby (once again, 24/7; worse on days of high wind, when it is blowing towards Wollar)

2. Peabody finances

- As Peabody Energy is bankrupt in America, it would seem very unlikely that they have any capital to spend on expansion of Australian projects. This must be a key consideration.
- The DPE report identifies that benefits of the project include \$172.5m of direct capital investment. The report also states that the development decision relates to the 'land' not the 'person'.
- However, all the public benefits including employment predictions and investment relate directly to Peabody and their proposal under assessment. The economic analysis and public benefit predictions are an essential part of the decision and cannot be separated from the applicant.
- The uncertain nature of Peabody's future makes it seem a bad risk to support; the chances of the company having the resources to rehabilitate the land properly when they finish also must be questioned. In the same way, filling voids by one third is not adequate or acceptable

3. Justification for mine

- Wilpinjong Mine was developed in 2006 to provide 80% of coal requirements for Bayswater & Liddell Power Stations until 2026. The current approval can meet these contractual obligations, so there is not need for an expansion.
- The extension project is not even required to ensure security of coal-fired power supply in NSW.

These are just some of the objections which we feel strongly about. Other factors, which some would describe perhaps as 'soft', are climate change – fast approaching tipping point – biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage and the actual planning review process. The longer the triple bottom line is ignored, the larger the catastrophe will be.

