



Submission to Planning Assessment Commission Review

Wilpinjong Extension Project RO39-16

To: David Kloppers
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I am writing to object to the extension of Wilpinjong Mine. I am familiar with the area and its residents due to my interest in bird-watching and research and am concerned that the development will have an unacceptable impact on the community and environment. It is of my opinion that the PAC should not recommend its approval for the following reasons:

- **Justification for mine**

The extension project is not required to ensure security of coal-fired power supply in NSW as the current approval can meet the contractual obligations to provide coal for Bayswater and Liddell Power Stations until 2026, so there is not sufficient justification for this extension to warrant the damage to the environment.

- **Noise & Dust**

The assessment has also inaccurately predicted the impact of noise, particularly Low Frequency Noise (LFN), which has been ignored, but has shown to be of importance by the EPA in monitoring exercise earlier this year. Furthermore it is proposed to move the costs of noise mitigation onto the community, which is unacceptable.

Another issue is that it is predicted the dust emissions will increase and exceed acceptable levels, posing a threat to the health of the remaining residents.

- **Flora and fauna**

The impact on biodiversity, particularly the effect on threatened species such as Regent Honeyeater, *Anthochaera phrygia*, and the impact on the nearby Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, from this extension is not acceptable. Offsetting for a species critically endangered at both the state and federal level should not even be considered a possibility. And using current mine revegetation as an offset and mining so close to a reserve without buffers should not be approved.

- **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage**

It is understood that the extension will destroy an ochre quarry, an artwork site, 92 artefact sites, and put over 100 additional sites at risk. It is completely unacceptable and irresponsible to approve this destruction.

- **Impact on the Wollar community**

To use the rationale that the Wollar community is in a state of decline irrespective of the development of the mine is poor reasoning. There is no reason why Wollar could not thrive as a community should the mine not be extended. And the effect of the extension on the community outside Wollar, due to loss of services, has been underestimated by the assessment.

- **Climate change**

For us to meet our international obligations under the Paris agreement, to which Australia is now a formal signatory, no more coal mines should be opened (or extended). Furthermore the NSW Government has also made commitments to reduce our carbon emissions in its *NSW Climate Change Policy Framework*, which states a commitment to reach zero emissions by 2050. This project will add 20.4 Mt greenhouse gases per year until 2033 and the Wilpinjong mine will become the largest coal mine in NSW. It is neither a rational or responsible decision to extend a coal mine and, at the same time, promise to reduce carbon emissions in this state and country.

Dr. Cilla Kinross

23/11/2016