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Hello

My name is Bruce Hughes and I am a long term member of Wollar community. Moved to Wollar district in the early 1980s. Joined the Wollar Rural Fire Service immediately and I am the president of the Wollar Progress Association. I am also a triple C member for this mine.

Distance to Mudgee for me is 70kms oneway Yes, I know but I chose to live here because back then Wollar had a strong healthy community which made it easier. My property is 18 kms from Wollar on the banks of the Goulburn River, see Appendix 5, figure 1, number 200 that's me. My property is a stranded asset who would want my property with a noisy coal mine as a next door neighbour and also the isolation. My property would have made a high value off set for the mines in the area. In all fairness I would like my property and all other private propertys in the Wollar district to be included in the condition for acquisition rights, due to the mine being more than willing to buy up propertys outside the acquisition zone in the past so they could own all of the Wollar valley. While we still call Wollar a community I am far more socially and economically disadvantaged then I was 10 years ago, we all know what happened then, a mine. The social impacts are far greater then forecasted. If I want to socialise I must travel into town. If I need a mechanic

hardware etc I must travel to town, where before the mine the previous shop owners offered all this. I am still unsure if my now local fire brigade Cooks Gap will be able to help me in a fire situation because they are 1 hour and 3 train crossings away.

I strongly object with the social impact management plan the mine has put forward as it does not talk about now and the present time only about the future. They seem to forget that there will still be people left living in the Wollar district even if they buy out everyone left in Wollar with acquisition rights.

Pit 8 will be closer to my property the northern end of Slate Gully where they are proposing to put the Haul road and ROM pad this is opposite a small valley which will funnel the noise from the mine into Wollar creek and where Wollar Creek enters the Goulburn River National Parks, this is where the sandstone gorges begin. This will make the noise impacts worse because the noise from the mine will be channelled down the creek, then down the river to my place. I already experience noise from the mine via Wollar Creek and Goulburn river. I don't think the mine has addressed their noise impacts properly. Since the mine has been operating noise has always been a problem particularly in the cooler months. Why is it that the Wilpinjung mine noise compliance

assessment is adopted from the noise guidelines that has not been approved yet. Changes to the temperature inversion will allow this mine to be louder than they are now. A step backwards for me but a large step forward for the mine.

It is true that I am anti-mine but can you blame me, after witnessing what government decisions have allowed. This mine should never have been allowed to get so large because in the process they and the government have destroyed the Wollar community. It is wrong that I am only given 5 minutes to speak and I have apparently lost the right to appeal. A criminal has more legal rights, my crime is that I live in the Wollar district and call it home.

My father was a timber cutter and bushman. His life skills taught me that the environment must be respected. Live with it, use it if needed but always leave something behind in case you need it again.

By approving Pit 8 you are not only destroying my home but yours also. What future are we leaving to the next generations. We need to look after our planet. Now I would like to apologise to my ... father and others who fought in the 2nd World War, as they fought to keep Australia free from being taken over by another country. Now the government is willing to allow large portions of Australia to be bought by other countries.

Thank You