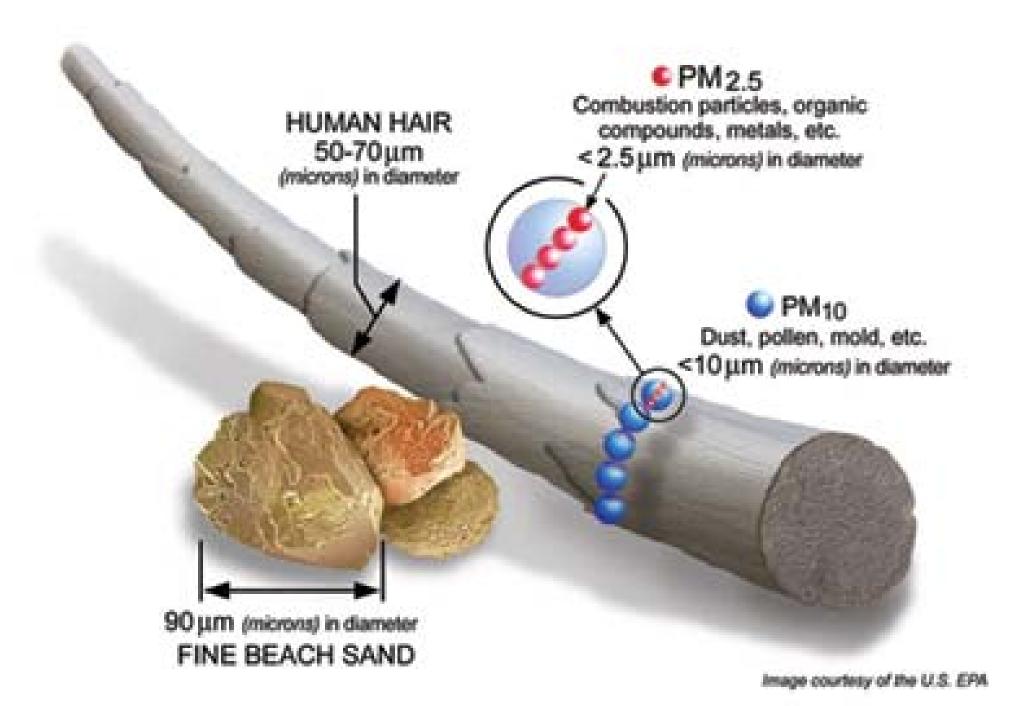


WILPINJONG COAL MINE AND AIR POLLUTION WHY THE PROPOSED MINE SHOULD BE REJECTED

Dr James Whelan Mudgee 11 April 2017

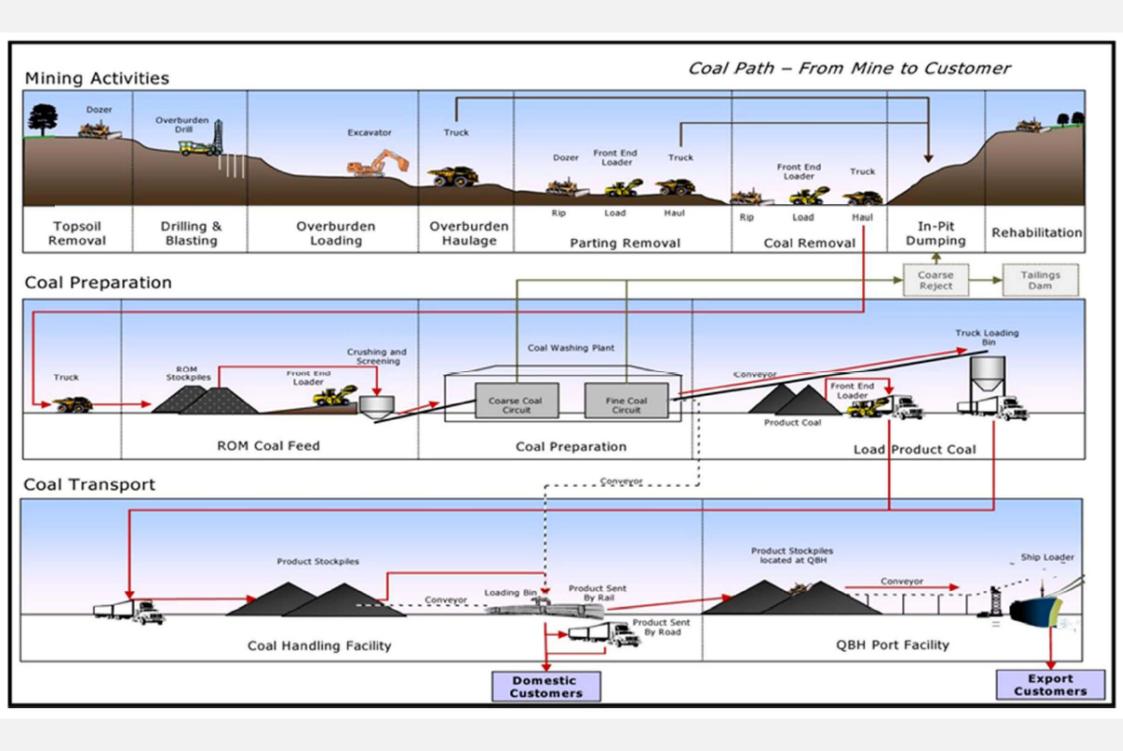


HEALTH EFFECTS OF PARTICLE POLLUTION

Scientific studies link particle pollution exposure to a variety of problems, including:

- increased respiratory symptoms: irritation of the airways; coughing and difficulty breathing; decreased lung function; aggravated asthma; chronic bronchitis;
- irregular heartbeat
- lung cancer
- nonfatal heart attacks
- premature death (especially people with heart or lung disease).





MANAGING POLLUTION UP TO THE LIMIT

- Best practice would involve minimising exposure as much as possible; implementing all available methods.
- Instead, Todoroski propose that WCPL 'temporarily pause' mining in Pit 8 for two days each year when particle pollution concentrations are predicted to exceed the national standard.

NSW Coal Mining
Benchmarking Study:
International Best Practice
Measures to Prevent and/or
Minimise Emissions of
Particulate Matter from Coal
Mining

Prepared for

Office of Environment and Heritage KE1006953

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Final

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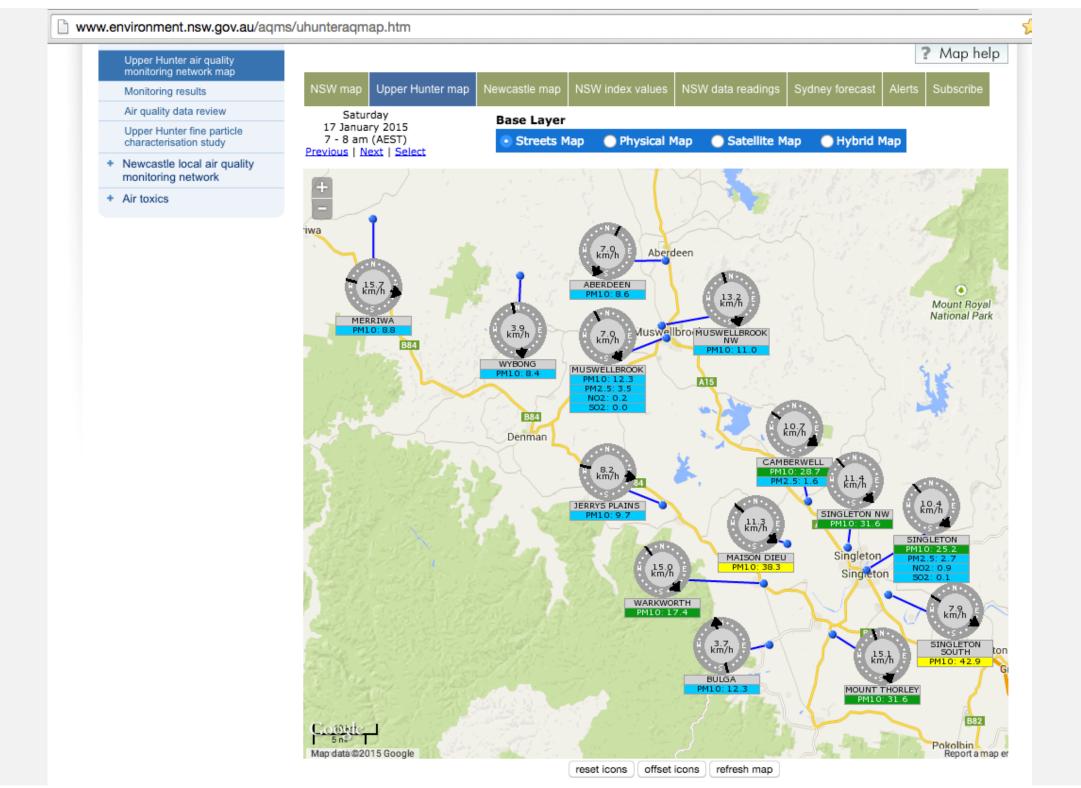
WILPINJONG: A TOXIC COAL MINE

- Toxic emissions (2014-15): arsenic (28kg); benzene (15kg); boron (370kg); fluoride (780kg); lead (140kg); manganese (2100kg); xylene (7.4kg); zinc (230kg).
- The mine is also a major source of coarse particle pollution (PM₁₀), reporting up to 5.8 million kilograms of PM₁₀ per annum and oxides of nitrogen - 4 million kg of NOx.
- Wilpinjong's annual reports of toxic emissions have been wildly inaccurate, varying from 3.5 to 13 million kg of PM₁₀.

POLLUTION LEVELS WILL EXCEED THE NATIONAL STANDARD

- Although the Todoroski report predicted pollution levels would exceed national standards in residential areas of Wollar, it failed to estimate how often this would occur.
- Limited details of pollution mitigation measures, despite clear guidance on that matter from the Office of Environment and Heritage. There were no plans for real-time monitoring to allow responsive management.





DOUBLE STANDARDS?

• Todoroski's response (p.8) to the independent (Ramboll) review argues that the new standards **should not apply**. There is no justification not to apply the new standards to the assessment of the proposed extension. As such, the annual standard for PM₁₀ should be part of the assessment.

• National standards for PM_{10} pollution: 50 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³) for 24 hour average concentrations and $25\mu g/m^3$ for annual PM_{10} concentrations.

NO BASIS FOR THE PAC'S ASSESSMENT

- Ramboll: These errors, combined with "illogical and potentially misleading" data, resulted in an assessment that required significant further work before DPE can make an informed assessment.
- Peabody's response: No change to the assessment.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Reject the proposed extension
- Insist on the development of an air pollution monitoring network to demonstrate compliance with national air pollution standards in the Mudgee region.