

Submission Objecting to Proposed Extension To Coal Mine at Wilpinjong.

I am writing this objection as Cyclone Debbie wreaks havoc. Climate change scientists predict fewer but more powerful cyclones for Australia (and me and mine). While I can understand existing coal mining approvals being worked out, I can't see why Peabody Energy US should benefit financially from mining fossil fuels (poor quality at that -so more is burnt for a given energy need) at the expense of our future storm damage.

NSW needs a coal mining policy so that proposals such as this extension can be considered in a strategic plan rather than in piecemeal fashion as is the case. Such a strategy can take into account climate change targets. I understand such a strategy was recommended by a previous Planning and Assessment Commission.

The adverse social impacts of the mine are severe already-this extension effectively seals the fate of Wollar. Mines, unless of great strategic importance should not be allowed adversely to affect communities or degrade good agricultural land. Neither the past impacts or those of the proposed extension appear to have been adequately addressed. If approved then Wollar residents should be offered just compensation. Aboriginal Heritage will be adversely affected including an ochre quarry and rock art sites (we pay to visit these elsewhere in Australia-their loss is permanent). There appears to be a lack of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders which should be investigated by the Commission.

The proposed biodiversity offsets don't meet current NSW policy which requires "life for like".

As many of the offsets are proposed on rehabilitated mining area-the proponents claims need to be assessed by independent experts.

The Department has recommended no final voids in the proposed pit. This should be extended to cover the currently approved pit. (I am disgusted when I see mining remnants around Australia.) I trust the Commission will inspect the current rehabilitation works as part of its considerations)