

I wish to add my final submission to the United Wambo Project albeit my reactions to the PAC intent for the project and my conclusive comment on the “hearing” of 8th February 2018.

The following points are representative of my previous presentations both verbally and written.

1. Poor PAC process

- Having two public PAC events in Singleton in the one week shows complete disrespect for voluntary community resources and capacity to attend. Having PAC persons involved with both projects highlights the lack of serious considerations for either of the hearings.
- The fact that the commissioners declined an invitation to a site visit also showed disrespect for the process in that the commissioners did travel through our land for an “inspection” of the Offset that was identified at the PAC by the proponent.
- This lack of consideration exposes the public PAC process for the cursory farce that it is.

2. Water impacts:

- The cumulative impact of all including the larger final voids has not been adequately assessed. The ongoing costs of management have failed to get a mention.
- The drawdown of base flows and alluvial groundwater associated with Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River will be increased. The cumulative loss of groundwater across the Hunter Region has not been included in the assessments.
- The actual drawdown already encountered has been overlooked by proponents and there has been no baseline data presented or used to indicate the process and impacts. Wambo coal has never followed the requirements for baseline data and the only impacts that could show this are the EIS referencing to waterways.

Wambo Creek (South Wambo Creek) has its status listed as a permanent stream in the EIS for Singleton Council’s DA 108/91. The consent required monitoring of aquifers and streams for quality and quantity.

Wambo did not monitor and Council did not pursue compliance.

Following EIS documentation lists status diminishing to ephemeral for the current approval, with requirements continually to determine baseline data and this has still not happened.

The actual impact of the vast spoils on the water cycle and the changes to rainfall in the areas has not been considered let alone calculated. It is easier to blame DROUGHT.

- The proponent through its consultants and aided by DoPE has provided shoddy referencing to the impact on the aquifers with assurances of zero impact beyond 4 km from the project. How little does the consultant bother to determine data, investigate and properly analyse what has gone before, let alone what will occur in the future.

- There have been no consultants bothering to correlate the historic records of water in our area and definitely not to even inspect our creeks or wells to see for themselves, they simply propagate past allegations, including incomplete drafts provided with inaccurate data.

3. Social & Health impacts:

- Increased heights and volumes of overburden will worsen air pollution. They will increase the loss of mobile phone reception, and this can have serious impact for residents' and workers' safety.
- The Jerry's Plains air quality monitor has registered 5 exceedances so far in 2018 with existing operations. The nearby Warkworth monitor has registered 10 exceedances of national air quality standards since the beginning of the year
- The EPA Dust Stop Program and environmental pollution licences are not managing air pollution from existing mines in the area.
- Increased mine noise will impact on a least 31 additional properties in the area
- The cumulative social impacts of loss of privately owned land and farming operations has not been assessed. The most recent being that of the Brosi property as announced in the proponent presentation on the 8th February 2018 hearing.

4. Biodiversity impacts:

- Impacts on biodiversity will be extreme and not able to be offset.
- United Wambo will remove over 250 ha of critically endangered and irreplaceable bushland that provides habitat for many threatened species.
- Three nationally endangered species already suffering cumulative loss of habitat due to Hunter mining expansion: Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Spotted-tailed Quoll. The cumulative loss of foraging and breeding sites has not been assessed.
- The biodiversity offset package for United Wambo has not been completed and will not replace essential habitat features.
References to 56-258 ha offset from Wambo and Jerrys plans figures can be considered just figures considering the Brosi "offset".
- The Brosi property was purchased 20th December 2017 for the purpose of Offset.
It had not been tested for bone-fide value as offset until the end of January 2018 and it is extremely doubtful as to the accuracy of the assessment and its eventual worth for purpose.
171.5ha is dubious considering the size of the property and the actual area cleared and farmed over the past 100 odd years and especially the amount of timber taken during the past twenty years (including the more recent year). This is not even an educated guess, let alone an accurate measurement. Was this calculated or ignored?
- Remnant stands of threatened Hunter River Red Gums continue to lose sources of groundwater essential for drought resistance

This is particularly noted with the dramatic impact from longwall mining that has been the process since 1990s to the detriment of the creeks and aquifers that the stands rely on. It needs to be noted that all vegetation stands are under threat despite claims to the contrary within the consultant's presentation.

5. It is interesting to hear the wealth of information provided to the PAC by reputable speakers and I wonder if any notice was taken to these presentations.

It is likely that DoPE will override any semblance of consideration as has been the case in other decisions.

I really would hope that you seriously consider all that has been presented to you and take the time to assess the proposal in light of the devastation it will cause that will not be corrected in any time span to the future.

We cannot have the land downgraded and the polluted waters left behind for the period which is touted, at least 265 years.

Why is it that the consultants can provide such outlandish predictions without authorities even considering the logic and validity of the claims?

The final act of disrespect and arrogance was displayed with the disregard for the biosecurity of our property exhibited by your tour through to the "Brosi offset".

I wonder how much was really gained by this and if anyone really bothered to consider what this may have meant to our property. It would have been more appropriate for you to have had a site visit as requested or at least acknowledged the land you were passing through on the day.

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