Iobject to the proposal on the basis that:

1. The project will extract 150 million tonnes of additional coal. This will not meet the intergenerational equity requirements of ESD because of the associated increase in greenhouse gas emissions and worsening of climate change. Our emissions urgently need to be brought under control. This coal needs to stay in the ground.
2. Upper Hunter regional air quality is regularly above the national standard for dust with current operations. There is no room in the air shed for more dust from new open cut pits.
3. Biodiversity impacts are significant with proposal to clear 670 ha including 527 ha of woodland and grassland containing 247 ha critically endangered ecosystem and habitat for threatened Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Spotted-tailed Quoll. This is an important remnant of bushland that links with the Wollombi Brook corridor and Wollemi National Park.
4. The offsets for biodiversity loss are highly inadequate and not complete, including the proposal to re-establish critically endangered bushland on mine rehabilitation.
5. Two large and deep final voids will be left in the landscape.
6. The cumulative impacts of groundwater drawdown on Wollombi Brook and associated groundwater dependent ecosystems including riparian vegetation, are far too great and not adequately assessed.
7. The Jerrys Plains, Warkworth and Bulga communities are already suffering from too much mine noise and dust. The social impacts have not been adequately assessed.
8. The area is saturated with open cut mines. The cumulative impact on the environment and community is significant and has not been assessed.