I wish to submit my strong objections and concerns in regards to the proposed United Wambo Open Cut Mine Project. This submission will discuss the adverse Social and Enviromental impacts detrimental to the safety, health and wellbeing of myself, my family, my home and my community.

In 1998, my husband and I purchased our property in Jerrys Plains to provide ourselves with on farm income, a rural lifestyle and more importantly appositive upbringing for our three sons. I have grave concerns for our future as mining activities has continued to be approved across the Hunter Valley, with a high concentrations of mines being within a short distance from our home and community. The current Wambo Peabody mine is approximately 2km distance from our home.

At present we are currently being impacted by Wambo Operations due to the effects of dust, noise, vibration and nitrous oxide and diesel pollutants from blasting and mining operations especially in unfavourable weather conditions. This provides us with a constant reminder of the loss of a rural lifestyle we envisaged due to the increase in poor air quality and the above mentioned impacts of the large scale development which is being proposed.

My major concerns are the effects to my health and wellbeing, in particular is the air quality in regard to the long term exposure and cumulative effects of the PM 2.5 fine particles which are currently not monitored in Jerrys Plains. I have great concerns for the associated health implications of fine particulate pollution that coal production has exposed to myself and the residents of Jerrys Plains living alongside such an expansive operation. Therefore I believe as a rural community we are not being protected nor being provided with effective air quality monitoring of PM2.5 particulates and as result we may be exposed harmful levels of pollution as there is no current data. I also have grave concerns for our pets as they have had respiratory problems in the past due to nitrous oxide after a blast and not being at home to bring them to the safety of indoors. The levels of noise are disruptive to my sleep and also my enjoyment of outdoor activities which then causes me great distress and anger. I feel the quality of harvested tank water and ground water is being compromised due current dust and the future mining activities will impact this also. Vibration from blasting is effecting the integrity of my home.

In regards to the social impacts of mining, I have developed a strong sense of community and this has been my focus for the positive upbringing, wellbeing and education of children and grandchildren. This has proven to be benefit to them by being involved in a small village community. The proposed and current Wambo mining projects are seeking an approximate life of extraction to be 23 years to the year 2040. I cannot see any future living in this community with despair and uncertainty as I will be 75 years of age and will have suffered the long term effects of mining production.

I feel acquisition of our home will be our only outcome as our property values decline with this proposal. Mitigation is not feasible as I feel this will not provide me with the advantage of being outdoors and having the solitude of my surroundings. When we purchased our property we commenced operations of a commercial cut flower farm specializing in Western Australian Eucalypts with a variety of 11 species. This property was sourced as being ideal for its climate to grow these species and I believe I am the only grower of this flora within close proximity to Sydney Flower Markets. Dust pollution has also had a negative effect on the quality of product. I have concerns for the many flora and fauna species in this area that have welcomed the existence of environment we have produced.

I believe there will be a negative flow on effect of the gentrification of our community as families are displaced and the attraction of long term residency is diminished as is currently observed with some properties that have been acquired left vacant. I have had a long involvement with Jerrys Plains CWA and this organization will fold as our community members decrease.

I firmly believe this project and current Wambo mining will have a negative impact on our health and wellbeing ,the decline in real estate values, furthermore effecting the Jerrys Plains community at large. In closing , I strongly oppose the approval of this proposed project as I have major concerns about the projects expansive footprint and the efficacy of providing protection to myself and community in the above reasoning.

 Thank you for the opportunity to give voice to my concerns on this matter.

Kind Regards Tania Oliver