**Objection to the modification of Rix’s Creek Mine**

I object to the modification of the Rix’s Creek mine because the environmental effects have not been assessed. In particular, there has not been an assessment of the adverse effects on air quality for neighbours and the regional airshed. It has been well established that coal mining is largely responsible for the poor air quality in the Hunter Region. There needs to be an assessment of the cumulative effects of mining and its contribution to the poor air quality in the Hunter.

I object to the modification because of the contribution that the coal from this mine will make to global warming. If global warming is to be kept below 1.5°C then carbon dioxide emissions must be dramatically reduced. There can be no justification for opening new mines or extending existing coal mines if the NSW Government is serious about combatting climate change. It should be noted that the Rocky Hill judgement by Justice Preston in the NSW Land and Environment Court emphasised the importance of considering the global contribution of Scope 3 emissions from coal mining.

Warwick Pearse

27 May 2019