

Attention: NSW Independent Planning Commission

Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 8445)

I wish to lodge a submission of support for the Tahmoor South Coal Project. As a member of the local community who resides in a mine subsidence district, I understand and appreciate the history and importance of Simec Mining – Tahmoor Coal for the Wollondilly Shire.

Tahmoor Coal has been a part of the local area for over 40 years and has provided a livelihood not only for its employees and their families, but for local suppliers, community groups and many small business owners. Furthermore, the colliery continuously supports local schools, non-for-profit organisations, local council and many community events.

I strongly believe the fear of mine subsidence to homes can shadow people's views and prevent them from seeing the benefits the colliery brings to the local area and economy. If the colliery were to close, the impacts to the community and small businesses would be felt for many years to come. The NSW government agency, Subsidence Advisory NSW (formally the Mine Subsidence Board) has an office in Picton and is there to manage mine subsidence compensation claims should any damage occur to properties. People should be reassured that there is government body to turn to for help if they need it.

Following the bushfires in the area in 2019-20 and the hardships faced with Covid-19, now more than ever we need to stability for local employment. The generations that have worked at Tahmoor Coal, the apprenticeship and graduate programs the colliery invests in, and the younger generations starting their careers rely on this project approval. Without it, Wollondilly Shire will not only lose a part of its history, but it will impact the lives of so many families and local businesses.