**For submission :** To IPC NSW , Electronic Public Hearing on 15th and 16th February 2021

RE: **Tahmoor South Coal Project**

I would like to further lodge my strong opposition to the proposed extension of Tahmoor South Coal Project.

My objection is on 3 grounds :

1. a) Based on the reports submitted by Professor Sackett , objecting to Tahmoor South Coal extension dated 10th October 2019 . Its unconscionable in this time that we continue to increase harmful CO2 , when the world is pushing for dramatic lower levels

b) Dr Ian Wright , senior lecturer at University of Western Sydney, specialist in water chemistry, water pollution and water ecology , wrote a damning report on the impact of underground mining, both the historical behaviours on Simec mine in Tahmoor and the potential if this mine were to be extended.

Past swimming holes in the region have dried up through cracking and highly toxic chemicals are already present in local creeks where people drink and swim. Any extension of this mine will be highly dangerous to the local community. Barium, strontium and lithium were at alarming levels.

c) In the reports presented by Undermine , The environment has been totally compromised, and both Myrtle creek and Redbank creek are perfect examples of mines NOT putting the environment on the agenda.

Longwall 30 has already decimated creeks , left pollutants , these creeks once swimming holes to the community and the life blood to animals have dried up and have not been repaired or restored from past mining .

1. In Jeffrey Bennett`s , expert witness report dated 17th. December 2019 , the author of 140 international journal papers and 18 books in the fields of environment, natural resources and agricultural economics

Was damning of the Economic impact assessment of Tahmoor south extension , as prepared by Cadence

**Some of Mr Bennett`s findings:**

- Royalties stated are too high and reflect artificial tax elements

- Employment benefits stated are grossly overstated

- A similar logic applies to the supply value chain

Overall NPV estimates of Tahmoor south FALL by over $450mio in the report.

Further, indirect costs have been omitted from the report , the report does not give a clear picture to the full costs of the project.

For example :

What is the cost to restore Myrtle creek and Redbank creek ? from PAST projects ,

Inaccurate forecasting of the effects of longwall mining has already occurred . This damage cannot be remediated .

Whats the cost of future creek damage to our waterways?

What is the cost if BARGO cannot grow and develop as community because of subsidence will not allow development , none of these costs have been considered .

Further,

In 2019 local developers approached Simec to work on a coexistence proposal, a proposal that the mine and community can work together. The developers agreeing to subsidies the mine for its subsidence liabilities in support for co-existance. A plan supported by local and state government.

- **Simec rejected the offer** ., who rejects free insurance? The calculations for the liability were calculated off simecs own estimates.

- What does this say about a) the real cost of the subsidence b) the mines willingness to work with the community

What is clear is the mine is ONLY interested in its own profits . Actions are the measure NOT words.

1. **A paper for a growth vision for Wollondilly was set out by Mr Deeth as a vision for Wollondilly for 2040.**

In the plan were 2 key pillars for the vision. …. liveability and sustainability.

In Bargo, there are 3 sites for development , representing 177 future homes.

* **Bargo is an affordable living community, where people commute to the city suburbs for work. Demand to live here is high.**

These 177 homes would have more direct benefit to the town of Bargo than the mine .

1. 177 new homes will create 250 plus jobs for tradesman
2. 177 new homes will provide new families affordable housing
3. 177 new homes will bring spending to local businesses
4. A minimum of $70mo on new housing
5. An average of $2mio pa spending into local business or $70 to $80mio over the life of the proposed mine.

Benefits without impacting the environment.

Today the mine extension will **stop liveability in its tracks** and the **risks to sustainability are high.**

Past mining longwall mining has created **enormous stress for many families** living in conditions. created by longwall mining.

-There are past subsidence issues still not addressed

-There are past environmental issues not addressed

- There is little economic advantages to this mine , as the previous mine owners have shown by NOT proceeding with mining years ago.

-Independent analysis shows the economic benefits of the mine are minimal

In regards to the subsidence compensation process , the new process enables Simec to be both judge and jury in when and how much compensation is paid, SA NSW now only have a administrative role , they have no teeth and no enforcement role.

The compensation process is flawed and this is why you will hear of many cases or real pain from the past BUT there will be many many more to come. No mining should occur below homes.

- Common sense says the Bargo is a growth hub for low cost housing .

- There are MORE benefits to NO mining , both economically and environmentally.

It’s a clear NO to the extension of the Tahmoor South project .

Wollondilly is attributed to have the meaning …. “water trickling over rocks”

Ironic…There will be less water trickling over rocks if this mine goes ahead.