

I am completely opposed to SIMEC's proposal to expand underground longwall coal mining into the Tahmoor South (Bargo area). These are my reasons why the proposal should not be approved.

SIMEC is a foreign-owned company, so most of the profits will not go to help everyday Australians but will go to overseas owners of the company.

Tahmoor-Bargo area residents will need to claim compensation for any subsidence damages to their houses. According to SIMEC, 143 homes will definitely be subject to subsidence above the proposed extension, and more than that may also be affected. Wollondilly Shire Council roads, Sydney Water pipelines, the owners of gas supply pipelines, and NSW Rail property will probably also be damaged. At the present time, many Tahmoor people who live above the current Tahmoor North longwall mining area have had their houses damaged by subsidence. However, all their claims for help have still not been finalised. Adequate compensation has not yet been made for some quite severe subsidence damage resulting from the existing mine. What can these people do? The mine has not paid the people or fixed their houses properly. Will the NSW Government help them or help Bargo residents in the future, because they were the ones that approved the mine that caused the damage? Not on their past performance! Neither the mining company, nor the NSW Govt through its previous MSB have helped. In fact, the NSW Govt ICAC Investigation chaired by commissioner Latham into subsidence damages and claims in Tahmoor was finalised in 2016. The findings identified major corruption and misconduct. That did not help the affected Tahmoor residents one bit, and since then another four years have passed. Claims have still not been finalised and some people are still trying to exist in the wreckage of their homes. The NSW Govt failed in its duty to protect its citizens, then held a Govt inquiry that simply resulted in a new Govt ACT in 2017 to replace the previous ACT of 1961. This sort of thing did not help Tahmoor residents and it will never help Bargo residents in the future either. We do not want any of these problems in Bargo.

Another problem for Bargo residents will be the effect on our local Platypuses. We have them in Hornes Creek, Bargo River and Nepean River. Cracking has already happened underneath Myrtle Creek at Tahmoor from SIMEC's Tahmoor North longwall mining. This took away a lot of the water that used to flow there. Please do not approve this extension to the SIMEC Tahmoor mine and so make our local Platypuses disappear.

Residents of the Bargo area above any of the proposed mine extension will have their properties devalued because of the threat of subsidence. Will any compensation for devaluation be paid to these owners? As well, residents above the proposed mine extension will most likely later learn that they are now restricted from building swimming pools, granny flats or large sheds. This is not fair to all current residents who moved here before the mine.

Global climate change is caused by human greenhouse gas emissions. Australia will very likely become drier and hotter in the future. Already we have had water restrictions more than once in the last couple of years. Last summer's bushfires, when we had to evacuate twice and some houses nearby were burned down, were

partly caused by increasing effects of climate change. If the NSW Government approves the extension to this mine, the coal will be sold to two of the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitting countries, India and China. This will help make climate change a lot worse, and will make our lives in Bargo, as well as other people's lives in Australia and the world, much worse. This is another reason why I strongly object to allowing them to extend their mine.

It is very unfair to support damage that will affect the lives and environment of Bargo residents forever, as well as NSW and the world forever, just so that a foreign-owned coal company can make profits for 10 years and then close the mine. The mine managers say they will provide jobs for up to 400 people. Some of those people are not local residents, and some of the jobs are not full time. The mine managers say the mine and the jobs will only last for 10 years. But the damage from the mine will last forever.

For all the above reasons, this application to extend the SIMEC Tahmoor coal mine should not be approved.