Submission to the IPC

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed mining under Bargo rural/residential area by SIMEC Coal.

Before I start I would like to say that I am not against the mine in its present form. I just don’t think it is fair to impose such a cruel outcome of the proposed extension.

I am 74 years of age, and my husband is 77. We have both suffered cancer and I am still having Chemo treatments until June. We went through the trauma of the 2019 fires, losing 2 sheds with a lot of memorabilia, and 2 acres of natural bush. We had planned on staying here for another few years before selling and moving onto something more manageable. Our property now is virtually unsaleable. Would you buy a property with the prospect of cracking, and not allowed to do further construction?

We bought our land 24 years ago, and had a project home constructed on it. We obviously lodged our building plans, and were subsequently told that it is a mining area. We enquired at the Mine Subsidence Board if there would be mining under our block, and they assured us there would not be. You can appreciate why we are so upset. Yes, sure things change, but why do people have to be put through this trauma when there are options?

Apparently, this extension has been talked about with Wollondilly Shire Council for some time. However, we as residents, drastically to be affected by this extension, only found out about it a few weeks ago. Why was our Council so secretive. We pay our rates, as do our neighbours, and were not given any information.

Apparently, this mine extension is going to stop any further subdivision/development in our area. I cannot understand why. Surely if development is allowed, more people come into the area, possibly some may start new businesses contributing to the community. There would be more people paying rates each year. I have been told that existing homes built over the area to be mined, cannot do any renovations or extensions, cannot build swimming pools, and out buildings or granny flats. No one should be allowed to dictate like that.

I would also like to know, knowing that this is a “mine subsidence are”, how was Council able to permit people to build their dream homes. Do we have a negligence claim against Council? We have all built our homes confident that we would not be mined under.

If or when, there is major damage to our home as predicted by …………… where will we be go for compensation? They are saying it will be about 10 years before the damage occurs. So many of the people affected by the past mining actions, have been fighting for years for compensation. What guarantee is there that we will get compensated for this destructive mining? It is unbelievable that this has even been considered, considering the number of homes involved. It is vandalism! There is no consideration for the residents and how it is affecting us, which is just mining at any cost!