Hello to the commissioners, and like experts at their disposal in the background, thanks for your time. I indeed hope you have good judgment and can stand up for what is right, just and fair.

Also, a shout out to all the Ladies and gentlemen in the online audience, who obviously have an invested interest in this Public hearing for the Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD-8845).

Note to IPC examiner for written appraisal submission - This is the expanded version of my speech on the 3rd IPC public hearing day. Please see my notes, including my observations noted Good or Bad from the other speakers from the public hearing.

I would like to indicate that I oppose the project Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD-8845) from applicant Simec.

I will try to compose myself when presenting this, as the proposed project and expected subsidence flow on affect, has caused me considerable pain and anxiety, sleepless night and concern already and even heartbreak and despair, I have been upset many times with the past subsidence claims cases and stories heard 1St hand by nearby town residents the warnings and the prospect of me and my family going thru the same experiences, and it is only the early days for Bargo.

We all, including the NSW government, the Department of planning, all need to **learn from History** and **not repeat the same mistakes over and over**, there is **so issues with this proposed project**. Even the IPC own recommendations are not enough to safe guard the residents of Bargo against the damaging Mining company. We even have people presenting the issues, giving past advise and sad experiences and standing up for Bargo, even though they are not physically located on the new proposed project. Everyone with common Decency with social and moral properties, will see they are trying to help, they don’t want this mining disaster to happen to more people again and again, to another town.

Obviously in my view of this matter and other people and experts in their field support my view - the NSW Department of Planning and the EPI have not covered it “all” with this project, and their reports and or findings, rulings and regulations fall way short of what is expected of them. We do need an independent commission like yourself to check through everything like quality control to see if it is “ALL WELL”, correct and just. To make sure the NSW Department of Planning has got it right, which I don’t believe they have, and the NPIE reports are accurate and up to date, and the whole project application fits in and conforms with NSW legislation and other defined measures and considerations and public expectations. There are definitely inconsistences there in the reports etc and project does not confirm to the above. Even though you are not necessary a watch dog for the public to use say, we can see there is a lot factual evidence against the project that has been ignored by DPIE and very high concern locally at Bargo that there is chance project being approved DPIE pending the IPC view of things.

First of All - I want I point out that I’m a Bargo Resident (last 20 years) within the 20mm subsidence contour on the main road, but not currently directly over a listed longwall. We are still likely to have subsidence as per map, I estimate only 200 -300Mitres from longwall proposed, but that can change drastically with devastating results at any time as Simec intend to mine Three Tahmoor south mining domains now and in the future as indicated and documented in the minutes of the Tahmoor Colliery Community Consultative Committee Meeting in September. Thus, most likely my home as part of Bargo will incur irreparable damage, not to mention my Health and well-being which has already been affected, also that of my family, local friends and neighbours. The social and property damage will be enormous.

My home is set on piers (subsidence can cause damage (in Brackets) piers will fall over)-with other slabs for garage, barn and others areas, (slabs will crack or split in two) I have an inground swimming pool (pool can pop out of ground). I have many outbuildings, septic system (needs gravity feed otherwise will flow back into house or block up), fruit trees (will die), paving, retaining walls, establish gardens (will be destroyed). It is hard enough and near impossible to cover costs to get a successful claim for just the house damage alone let alone all of the above via the existing Subsidence Advisory (MSB) process. To understate it- All of these don’t fare well at all with mine subsidence, a huge concern with carnage to come. I don’t want them damaged no matter what the compensation! No amount of money will be good enough!  There is also a Large Dam next door- what will happen to that?

It’s been a hard year - Bargo (known as shaky ground by the indigenous people) and Wollondilly (water running over rocks) has *suffered enough already:  the drought, then the bush fires, then localised flooding, then coronavirus,* **do you really want to put us thru more hardship??**

I really did not know where to start with my presentation, because there are so many things wrong with this proposed project. In the last few days of watching the IPC meetings, so many people (the experts) against it have pointed out specific reasons why it should not be approved, using words like “on this alone” and then example listed, they had enough grounds, enough weight on that one point to have project rejected. Then they listed another and another.

During 2020 We have not been able to attend public meeting or protest about the propose mine, The Coronavirus has set us back months, that pushed the timeline to give us more time to protest and gather more evidence on Simec failures? For example, see next item.

Simec own newsletter Apr 2020 - your questions answered section last paragraph “Does the mine discharge water into local creeks”, they skirt around the question and go on about water quality testing etc, instead of answering **YES**, then their BS answer, **how can we trust them, they have been caught out the same month APR2020** byindependent testing at Tea Tree Hollow by WSU, and again in March, see flyer in mail.

I don’t mean to be rude and not waste time now in my presentation because I won’t get thru it in time, if we get stuck on these points of interest, but I ask the **following to be noted by IPC** and followed up:

I ask the commissioners to find out make public the following- **where are the Simec three Tahmoor South mining domains?** This is of public interest and will show more Bargo homes affected.

**What are the lease boundaries on the mine plan image?**

We also know that Tahmoor North was modified Five times (for the benefit of the mines), so what chance has Bargo and nearby towns got to survive this when they can change things after getting initial approval?

We see that the Simec mine has removed two longwalls from the original proposal, of cause they started off with an unacceptable grab of high number of longwalls and extra width and height of longwalls to maximise profitability. Why else are they doing the mining?? To make profit, it’s not about jobs! They have shown they can’t be trusted and they don’t care about Bargo at all. It is their intent to mine all of Bargo, no matter the damage they cause or leave behind.

We seem to be talking only about the 143 houses directly above longwalls – This is a disaster in its own right, it is called **INAPPROPIATE Mining**, mining under an established town (not just the Town Centre) is unacceptable by all standards. Don’t kid yourself The **800 plus houses from previous longwalls removed are still next to existing longwall proposals, they will still be affected by subsidence,** all they have done is lowered the risk associated, it is “sleight of hand” by Simec PR division, to take out the 800 plus figure to make it look better. In fact, 143 is really bad but the 800 plus cannot be counted out when it comes to subsidence. Simec will likely do the two longwalls latter anyway, we need a written guarantee that they won’t touch them!

This just the start of it, the house figures affect by subsidence will only get worse if the proposed project is approved because of the Simec three domains in Bargo. **How many Bargo homes will be affected if the project is approved? 1608 as per 2016 Sensis**! This only includes private dwellings, does not include other amenities and buildings like churches, schools, businesses, sport fields the list goes on and on.

I see in the local paper the district reporter Jan 29th 2021 has quoted Matt Johnston- spokesperson from Simec Mining Say “The current coking coal supply will be exhausted in 18 MThs, which means if Tahmoor South is not approved, we can no longer mine in the area.” How true is this??, or is it another misleading bit of information from the Simec people. I would like to (and probably all of Bargo) hold Mr Johnson to his word on this statement.

I note the old project for the Maldon Cement works near Picton, this project got approved and was to create 100s of local jobs, I see today that the site is run by 10 onsite staff, due to automation processes. How long is it before the mining company Simec replace all their staff for cheaper automation options, how far are we from this. I know first-hand that another QLD mining company use automation to steer the Hugh trucks that run around in the open cut mines, this technology is more than 5years old.

All of us at Bargo prefer not to have Subsidence, no one wants this anywhere, even the miners say “it is unfortunate”, which is a gross understatement! It more than unfortunate it devastating, it’s a disaster.

**This will be the worst levels of subsidence ever seen in the NSW southern coalfields.**

Commissioners Don’t let the mine start here!

 Even the basic definition from **WIKIPEDIA s**ubject = Subsidence. Concludes

“Where mining activity is planned mining-induced subsidence can be successfully managed **IF** there is co-operations from all of the stakeholders. This is accomplished through a combination of **CAREFUL mine planning,** the **taking of PREVENTIVE MEASURES and the carrying out of REPAIRES post mining.**

**Note *(they never cover the cost of repairs).***

They make it sound so simple don’t they, there is a big IF on the first line, all stake holders include Government and the mine company to play their roles in Careful mine planning, Preventive measures and carry out repairs.

We can see this is not occurring on this proposed project and past projects of the Tahmoor Coal.

I don’t even have enough time to cover this subject of Subsidence damage and the faulty claim process via the previous subsidence board and the current Mining Subsidence Advisory Board, this has been pointed out many time in last few days, heart breaking - many real life examples of horrific stories and injustice that local people have had to endure. I have shed more than a few tears over this. It makes me so upset, so sad, so unfair.

There is no Careful mine planning, think about the word careful… The IPC needs to step in and not approve this mine project, Simec is putting forward **INAPPROPIATE** Mining. I can’t stress this too much

**INAPPROPIATE** MINING.

There a plenty of other options to get coking coal elsewhere, even on Crown land. Remember the mine was going to close anyway a few years back, it obviously was not the only option to get coking coal since it was closing anyway? The miners have plenty of time to adjust to this if it happens, known since 2016. I have had 3 retrenchments in my working life, and adapted and have after the last one changed career to another sector. It is ludicrous to suggest from the supporting mining people that steel production will now come to a grinding holt because Tahmoor south project is rejected and the mine closes, **LIKE I SAID THERE IS PLENTY OF COKING COAL ELSWHERE**. Also note most of the coal goes overseas anyway. The current miners may have to travel further for their employment opportunities like the Illawarra. I know of but not personally of a Tahmoor resident and family man that works in the Hunter Valley, it must pay enough to travel there, right. From listening from the miners in the last few days they are more highly skilled than myself, electricians etc, and in my opinion should not have any issue finding another similar job. I also disagreed with one of the of the mine supporter to indicate that the area will turn into a ghost town if the mining people left, rubbish. Bargo is a great place to live and is growing, it is affordable compared to Sydney suburbs and where I live is only 1min from the Freeway (motorway) as easy access as the Wilton location from the freeway but even cheaper to buy land and house here.

**Preventive measures- don’t mine under an established town, don’t mine under houses** don’t just monitor and hope for the best. The mine does this… shuts their eyes and keep mining.

**Carry out repairs post mining**, ALL!!!! if only this was the case this is a quagmire of events, with delays built in. Where is the money to cover this? **$13.8M does not cover it!** Compare it to Tahmoor, we know Bargo is worse off 40% more like damage with subsidence up 1.605m, less budget allocated for repairs, worse subsoil in Bargo. We know the claims and repair process doesn’t work, see the many failed cases being rejected in Picton Tahmoor, Douglas Park, all under estimated and not fully compensated, while other claims are rejected see example 43% of claims aug 2016 to 2017 were rejected.

Even all the miners and CFMMEU in their own presentations agreed that there is an issue with the claims process and shortfall with compensation and there should be an overhaul of the mine subsidence advisory board, even the two councillors said there needs to be an in-between person to mediate like an ombudsman.

In the Picton area the most current longwall issue over 30% of Picton Industrial Businesses have put in a claim, over 1/3 affected so far, see Simec own mining minutes.

 Maybe I have No time talk on these but …In addition

I see there is no benefit (if mine goes ahead) for my family at all, just heart ache and despair…  including **no subdivision allowed** - there goes my retirement plan! Or my chance to **sell property to downsize cannot occur for 10-15 years or more.**

You (we) need to Preserve our Natural Assets and Environment - the waterways, groundwater, Dams, the Great Artesian Basin, food security, forests, farms, Indigenous cultural heritage and values, flora and fauna – Koala etc.

As you can see, I don’t trust Simec and mining to do the right thing(s) and in reality, the facts prove that true recently, please see news articles and reports, to name just a few

* they don’t even look after their own staff (Mar 6 - job cuts), Contactor s jobs cut, while announcing mine expansion.
* an even with regulations in place – environmental breaches EPA, Bargo river Apr 2020
* 43% of subsidence claims lodged Aug 2016- May 2017 were refused?
* Koala impact- leaflet sound very bad and I’m no Greenie.
* Long term Mining affects- (prev. operator) what about Thirlmere lakes, they never filled up, even with so much rain, this year (blind Freddy can see this).
* Benefits of project are highly overstated. Oxford review crushes Ernest and Young figures, out by Hundreds of millions of misleading calculations by E and Young. DEPARTMENT of Planning had 8mths to work out benefits and change their reports, even when highlighted to them
* Peter Vale uses the words “Balanced outcome”, right I don’t think it is!
* SUJEVV GUPTA- “family owned, important to his family”, what about my Bargo family and Bargo community. Maybe Sanjeev will be viewed by his kids as a failure if he does not make his next billion dollars out of Bargo town.
* You can’t put tilt meters on houses like industrial equipment and if they alarm, relevel them in the same way!
* Simec people used the words lately “friendly and fair”, They say “ Best Version of ourselves” just alone with the water issue, let alone subsidence one they should be ashamed of themselves in what they have done before and what they will do if this project gets approved, they should hang their “head in shame”” and apologise to the people affected – a massive long list.
* I have not seen one mining staffer say they live in Bargo; it was worked out in one presentation that less than 93 miners live in Wollondilly.
* I can’t believe one building Inspector the mines give work to, said the words ODD DISRUPTION when talking about subsidence, very dismissive and arrogant.

I use the analogy, just because we have water in the Dam, does not mean we have to use it all up, Same for mining - i.e. take the resource and waste it, then ruin everything else in the process of using it.  We don’t need a mine under Bargo to profit overseas interests. *Don’t let some billionaire industrialist ruin our lives.*

* There is *Not Enough Funds* set aside for compensation, 13M, compare this to the damage inflicted on Tahmoor previous $60M +, and still ongoing,
* Why did the NSW legislation get changed recently to allow mining in Bargo when it was banned? Similar to sell off resources (port) to China in another state?

I thank the Commissioners and the IPC people in the background for their time.