



# Country Women's Association of NSW

*Incorporated in 1931 by an Act of NSW Parliament  
Constituent Society of the Associated Country Women of the World*

ABN 82 318 909 926

24 February 2021

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
*Sent via online portal*

Dear Commissioners,

## **RE: Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 844) – Second Referral**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the Tahmoor South Coal Project (SSD 844) – Second Referral.

The Country Women's Association is the largest women's organisation in Australia. It aims to improve conditions for country women and children. The CWA does this by advocating for its members, helping local communities, creating a network of support and meeting together in towns and cities across Australia. The CWA of NSW has thousands of grassroots members and hundreds of branches across the state. Our members have a strong interest in policy decisions that affect communities, families and country people and can be viewed as an important stakeholder of government at both state and national levels. A key aim of the CWA of NSW is to improve the conditions of families especially in country areas, as well as enhance the value of country living.

The CWA of NSW is also NSW's largest rural issues advocacy group. With well over 8000 members and close to 400 branches across NSW, there is no other member-based organisation that has the breadth and depth of membership on matters affecting country people. Our policy positions and prioritised advocacy areas are determined by our grassroots members, via a democratic process.

The CWA of NSW ("CWA") has a vital interest in the protection of land and water. We strongly object to extractive industry projects where these important resources are placed under threat.

We also support positive action on climate change and we believe that as a nation, we should be transitioning from fossil fuel production and use to sustainable economies. Planned well and executed correctly, we can transform regions, communities and workers from fossil fuel extraction, processing and burning sectors to new, inclusive and sustainable economies.

Our local branches in the Wollondilly area have a strong interest in this project and strong concerns in relation to the project's operation that they have asked us to convey on their behalf.

We understand the concerns of our local members and families to be the following:

- The extension will impact 143 families directly above the longwall and additional number of families along and beside the wall. In some instances, these residences house more than one family.
- Of the 400 employees described as "local", who are connected to this project proposal, we understand that only 45% of them reside in the Wollondilly Shire. Many travel long distances to work at the mine. Whilst we have no issue with that concept overall, it is important to understand that claims of local spending overstated by the proponent.

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- Homes impacted are expected to be impacted by **20mm to 1.5m subsidence**. This will cause significant impact to properties with a minimum of 40% of homes being affected by significant subsidence.
- These impacts will cause in excess of 10 years' worth of stress and uncertainty for the families involved as they:
  - wait to see if their home will be affected by subsidence, and/or
  - wait for determinations of their claim, and/or
  - wait years for the mine subsidence to stop so repairs can be made, and/or
  - spend significant time, funds and energy in litigation fighting to have their claim determined.
- There are unanswered questions in relation to what happens after the proposed 10 year run-of-mine concludes and SIMEC has left the area. Reports and data indicate that many claims are made 5-10 years after the mining operations have ceased and it is unclear as to how those claims will be handled.

We urge the Independent Planning Commission to take these serious issues into account when determining the outcome of this application. Our members have already experienced and observed significant increases in mental health issues, unnecessary angst and toll on families and relationships throughout their local area.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Kind Regards,



Danica Leys  
Chief Executive Officer