Acknowledgment

I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the Central Coast and land on which we meet; the Darkinyung, Guring-gai and Awabakal people and their elders.

I would like to acknowledged them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for this place.

Dr Shepherd, Mr Woodward and Mr West

I come before you today as a Mother, Wife and resident of the central coast. When I looked at the terms of reference, and experience of speakers that have come before you today, I feel my time is best used focusing on the social affects, on the community and procedural legitimacy of the PAC and briefly explaining why you should not approve this mine again.

Cost of mining

To uphold our current lifestyle Australians need some form of mining, but the questions we should ask ourselves are:

- What cost does that come at?
- Is this an appropriate area to do that in?
- Is there a social responsibly to find other ways of power production?

These costs can be calculated in not monetary value, but economic loss. These losses include:

1. Economic distortion, resulting in a two speed economy
2. Risk to communities and social displacement “loss of ones self and community”
3. Cultural significance and the indigenous landscape.
4. Short and long term health impacts including the risk of death as outlined by the proponent.
5. Loss of flora and fauna
6. Destruction of our underwater aquifers and streams
7. Subsidence issues

We can all look to documented cases in own area where underground coal mining has lead to subsidence and environment disaster. Lake Macquarie and the subsequent repair job on the sugarloaf state conservation area 35k North of here is a prime example that underground coal mining is not suited for our area.
Borrowing from the Victorian ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT 1970 - SECT 1B, Sound environmental practices and procedures should be adopted as a basis for ecologically sustainable development for the benefit of all human beings and the environment.

The proponent has not developed in their EIS sound environmental practices as the science is wrong and misleading as demonstrated by the experts today.

This requires the effective integration of economic, social and environmental considerations in decision making processes with the need to improve community well-being for the benefit of future generations.

This mine will not improve community well-being. Once the coal has been dug out the money stops and benefit to future generations is negligible.

**Socioeconomic**

The draft recommendations fail to consider any social impact on communities from the mines operations.

What happens when mining comes to town? A study from Curtin, CQU and the ANU on resource development showed that conflicts emerge when resources are located in well established populations like the central coast.

The economic value often outweighs land use, adding to the socioeconomic impacts of changing communities in this way. Problems that result can be seen in cost increase of housing and drive in and drive out workers in the case of this application. The impact of workforces, and wage differentials compared to normal central coast families that work locally in service industries creates further inequality.

**Process & Transparency**

The submission process is flawed, as some submissions were duplicated, information that lacked reasonable argument or made by people that live in other states. I fail to see what someone living in QLD comment about building his industry has to do with a specific merits based assessment of this specific project. This is not a political decision or a labor movement. This process is meant to be at arms length from the government and any untoward influence or corruption.

Arms length: Well I think its safe to say that this process is neither arms length nor incorruptible. Of course this is no fault of your own, but the process that the minister has appointed you to this very panel may be considered by your subconscious self or lead to the appearance of conflict of interest. It is both ridiculous and unfair to put people in a position where there future employment could depend on a set result.

The proponents very own lobbyist Mr Girolamo and the Former energy minister are currently under investigation by ICAC. This leads me to my final point.
Approving this mine is an **unsafe** decision to make, as you would be prejudging the determination of the independent commission against corruption. Its subjudice as details relating to this very mine are before a judicial body.

The PAC must as urgency suspend all further decision making and wait to a time when the ICAC has ruled.

I really do empathise with the hard job ahead of you after all these great speakers today. This is where I live and it will be a great miscarriage of justice, if this mine goes ahead with the allegations that are currently hanging over it.

The people of NSW are not stupid and thankfully today our panel member are not either.