

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine
Date: Thursday, 13 December 2018 10:04:29 AM

To the Commissioners:

I wish to object very strongly to this proposed project.

Primarily I do so because this part of the Hunter, which includes the communities of Bulga, Warkworth and Jerry's Plains, is already way oversaturated with the noise and air pollution from open cut coal mining. The social and health impacts from this mine have not been adequately assessed. To subject people to more adverse impacts is unconscionable. I lived in the area for many years and watched the appalling escalation of pollution with disbelief.

Given it is proposed– after this long period of care and maintenance– to open cut deeper and wider than before, accessing the underground seams to make more profits, the air quality impacts will be greatly felt, in an area where above national standard emissions are regular. This Commission has the power to put an end to this escalation.

I also find the impacts on the heavily reduced regional biodiversity are too great, and it is insulting to suggest that this can be compensated for by inadequate and even yet-to-exist offsets. I strongly object to the pretence that critically endangered bushland can be re-established on mine rehabilitation areas. The reality of the adverse biodiversity impacts are significant. Namely, the clearing of 670 ha, including 527 ha of woodland and grassland containing 247 ha of critically endangered ecosystem, habitat for the threatened Regent Honeyeater, the Swift Parrot and the Spotted-tailed Quoll.

The plan also proposes to leave two large final voids in the landscape, which in themselves create many issues for future generations. That is not leaving in as good a condition as it was. And the groundwater drawdown created by the pits would continue. Wollombi Brook has suffered large drawdowns already and the cumulative impacts on this plus associated groundwater-dependent ecosystems have not been properly assessed. Plants and animals– including people – need water!

In addition, the proponents have not acquired the necessary credits to discharge mine water under the Hunter Salinity Water Trading Scheme.

The other enormous impact for future generations is of course that of fuelling global warming from the 150 tonnes of coal intended to be extracted and burnt. This does not meet ESD intergenerational equity demands and locks in the damage until 2041. I do not see how the Commission can approve such a blight on our grandchildren's future.

This project ought to be rejected; it will cause harm to people and the environment, both locally and globally, all of which should be valued over private profit for these companies dealing with a material whose use we know should be being discontinued, not expanded.

Your sincerely,
Sharyn Munro

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