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**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** United wambo coal mine submission  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7 August 2019 9:38:58 AM

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## Submission to the Independent Planning Commission re United Wambo coal mine

Attention Mr Gordon Kirkby.

Bearing in mind that the mission of the IPC is to *'deliver developments that benefit the people of NSW'*, I urge you to refuse development of this mine for the following reasons:

1. Accounting for the commitments by countries to the 2015 Paris Agreement, we are on track for more than 3C degrees of global warming this century, yet this figure does not even factor in feedbacks in the climate system. In commenting on the 2017 Fourth National Climate Assessment, US government agencies found that positive feedbacks in the climate system could bring about sudden non-linear shifts, so that the planet could warm to as much as 5C degrees. Steffan *et al.* have noted that sudden non-linear shifts are likely to propel the Earth System on a trajectory for an unstable 'hothouse earth'. I attach their 2018 *Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene* and urge you to read it.
2. But even if signatories of the Paris Agreement suddenly and drastically reduced greenhouse emissions well below their 2015 targets, if the planet warms to 2C degrees or even 1.5C degrees this would have drastic global consequences, including the loss of marine systems, fisheries, declining agricultural production of key grains, and increasing severe weather events. See the IPCC special report [Global Warming of 1.5C degrees](#).
3. These consequences are not abstract, they will directly impact the people of NSW in terms of drought, extreme weather, impacts on water storages and losses to agriculture. Given that your mission is to deliver developments that *benefit the people of NSW*, I urge you to rule out the United Wambo coal mine. Your duty is to the people of NSW and protecting the population from such huge, escalating risks.
4. Should you decide to approve the United Wambo project, I ask you to:
  1.
    - o **Include a condition** that links the mine's approval with the Paris Agreement, and that you
    - o **Include clauses that require review** to take into account progressive architecture of the Paris Agreement, which is designed to facilitate increasing ambition over time. To grant approval without this proviso would be meaningless.

Kind regards,  
Adam Guise

