

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Tahmoor South Project (SSD8445) - Second Referral  
**Date:** Tuesday, 20 April 2021 11:46:54 AM

---

Re: IPC Submission – Tahmoor South – GHGE methane emissions

Commissioners, in response to your email dated 15 April 2021, I furnish the following response:

When considering the future of the Tahmoor South mining proposal, the financial situation of the holding company, GFG should also be considered.

SIMEC, in their response to the IPC, dated 9 April 2021 state that the Tahmoor mine is a “relatively gassy mine, with 19.31 tonnes of carbon dioxide predicted to be expelled over the life of the project.” They have adopted the attitude that this figure is acceptable when comparing the amounts released by some other mines in New South Wales. The release of this amount of carbon dioxide cannot and should not be treated as acceptable. They also state that they will “regularly review available low emission and GHG abatement technologies ... to further reduce GHGE from the Project”, and they are “committed to offsetting some of its predicted GHGE through a purchase agreement with a 15MW capacity solar farm which will offset the daytime power requirements of Tahmoor mine”. As mentioned above, with the financial situation that GFG now finds itself in, I ask, what is the capacity of Tahmoor mine to be able to fund capital works to meet these goals? Based on news reports, there is no funding available to Tahmoor Mine from GFG and it appears that there would be no other sources of funding available to them from any other sources, to finance their capital works. With this situation, the question should be asked if they are able to maintain the emission of gases to the levels that they are stating, or will that figure be higher? They have already shown that they do not effectively filter the water expelled from the mine which has resulted in contamination of the local water ways. Reports are that Suisse Bank are actively trying to push both Tahmoor Mine and Whyalla Steel into insolvency. So, what does the future hold for the operation to continue?

It is alarming that the NSW Government does not impose set emission reduction targets for individual operations. The long wall coal extraction method releases more gases than other processes, such as the room and pillar method, but there is no direct requirement by the NSW Government on the operator to employ this method of operation to minimise the release of gases. Although SIMEC talk about their control of the gases released, with long wall mining, not all gas is immediately released, but settles in pockets in the goaf and permeates through the cracks in the strata caused by the mining operation, damaging flora and fauna when it surfaces. It is interesting to note that, after the December 2019 bushfires, two officers from the Department of Planning and Environment visited our property, concerned that there may have been rare native plants on our property that we may have destroyed. Now, however, the Department does not have any issue with Tahmoor mine operating the long wall method and releasing the gasses which could endanger the native plant life. One would say that this is hypocrisy.

Our environment is becoming more polluted every day. We cannot afford to put our heads in the sand and think of the economic benefits to the exclusion of the health and welfare of our communities. I ask that common sense is applied and you do not approve the SIMEC proposal.

Thank you

Arthur Steed

Email: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]