

IH & RA Moore

10th February, 2018.

Alana Jelfs ,

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The Commissioners,

NSW Planning Assessment Commission,

We are concerned farmers & residents at Jerry's Plains in the Singleton Shire Council area, with properties in Jerry's Plains and at Apple Tree Flat.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment in objection to the Wambo United Project and Associated Mod 3 and Mod 16.

We felt that the two Planning Assessment Commission Meetings in Singleton last week could have served the community better, if they were held at least a week apart. I, Ian was going to speak on the 8<sup>th</sup> February at the United Wambo one as well, however given the weather conditions I was unable to speak at both, which was very disappointing as we have grave concerns about the cumulative impacts that the United Wambo and the Hunter Valley Operations South Mod 5 projects will have on the historic village of Jerry's Plains and surrounding districts. I, Ian has lived at my present address for almost 62 years and have seen in the past a gradual impact of mining to this area to the an absolute disgrace that it is today.

Our property at Apple Tree Flat, where we live is situated in a valley, and is surrounded on three sides by the Wollemi Heritage listed National Park, and relies totally on a very reliable Underground Water Supply at the moment, however we are sure this will not be the case in the future with all of this mining happening in close proximity to us.

Our main concerns are the cumulative impacts of this mine and others in the area, especially the Hunter Valley Operations South Mod 5.

## **1. Impact on Underground Aquifers.**

The impact on the drawdown on the underground aquifers, cannot sustain the draining of the aquifers that will occur by leaving three large final voids, these two projects that have not been adequately assessed for the cumulative effect on the cumulative loss of groundwater that we rely on. In time we will all pay the supreme penalties when the aquifers are all destroyed. **Water is our greatest Resource of all -- NOT COAL.** We are already seeing a major decline in the underground aquifers from mining, with our well on our property at Jerry's Plains battling to water stock where in years gone by was used for irrigation purposes.

## **2. The impact of the noise that we are experiencing now at Apple Tree Flat is hard to deal with:-**

We are woken up in the middle of the night with the noise from the mines in the area.

We have gone outside of a night time to see who has come up our driveway only to realize that the noise is from the mines over the mountain.

On other occasions we have had discussions about whom or what is up the back of our property, only to realize that it is again, only the noise from the mines. APPLE TREE FLAT WAS ONCE A VERY QUIET area now it is a constant dull drumming noise from the huge amount of machines working at the mines 24/7, dozens and dozens of huge machines impacting on our once quiet area..

We noticed on the EIS that there is mention of the impact on residential properties in other rural areas, however we noticed that there is no mention of any impacts at Apple Tree Flat. Apparently no noise, dust or impacts on the Aquifers can pass through the National Park to the other side. We are closer to this mine project than United Wambo would like to admit.

The cumulative noise that we are now experiencing will become unbearable with the increase of the overburden heights from these two projects. The social impacts on the Jerry's Plains and surrounding districts have not been assessed cumulatively.

### **3. Impact of Dust. Dust cannot be controlled.**

When driving pass mining areas on the way to town (Singleton) we can see that the dust from the mines is not and cannot be controlled. It is impossible with the huge Draglines, Dump Trucks etc. moving the overburden and coal.

The increased heights and volumes of overburden will be detrimental to the air pollution with our air quality monitors here at Jerry's Plains already registering many exceedances this year with the mining operations, that we already have here, let alone with these two new projects. These two mines have no regard for the health and wellbeing of the residents of Jerry's Plains and surrounding districts. On many occasions when the winds are prevailing easterlies these mines continue to let off blasts and operate covering Jerry's Plains and surrounding districts with dust and pollutants.

If my computer skills allow we will include a photo taken of a blast and dust coming from the United Wambo mine in recent times, the dust in the photo was pre-blast with the darker dust coming from the blast. This is just one of many blasts that we are constantly experiencing and could be taken on many occasions. Photos especially ones just printed on ordinary paper do not depict the full scale of the dust.

The dust and gases from the blasting and the inconvenience to the travelers local and others when the roads and the highways are closed/blocked for mine blasting are not acceptable, especially when it is only benefitting multinational Mining Companies.

### **4. Manmade mountains are an eyesore even if the rehabilitation is done, it is not done to a satisfactory standard.**

The United Mine has failed to complete their rehabilitation commitments. United has been in "care and Maintenance" since 2010 and was due to cease mining in 2012. Instead of cleaning up and closing, United has not continued with its rehabilitation commitments, in anticipation of this project reopening the site.

## **5. Property Devaluations are another concern in mining areas, and the impact on rural villages and the community is devastating.**

Mines only destroy communities, agricultural lands and most importantly our most precious resource of all our water.

This Mine Project and other mining projects in the area all state that any potential impacts can be managed and will have no negative affects to the environment and to the community, however these goods are not achievable. This is totally incorrect we have lived here for many years and week by week it has become a total disaster. This will be no different this time and any special conditions put in place will not be managed to an acceptable level. It will be absolutely impossible to control the dust and noise pollution and the destruction of our aquifers as Wambo and United have had huge problems with water in their mines for many years and have been jetting the water up in the air to try to get rid of the huge volumes they are pumping out of their mines to the detriment of other water uses.

We have lived here for a very long time and the impacts are becoming greater. We feel that another huge mine in the area will be so overpowering that the environment and community will not be able to cope with this monster Mine that Wambo United are proposing.

The Historic Rural Communities of Lemington , Warkworth and Ravensworth do not exist anymore, with Camberwell and Bulga battling to survive. These are only some in the Singleton Shire Rural Villages to lose their historic history to coal mining, not to mention other communities in other Shires. Please **DONOT** destroy Jerry's Plains too, the cumulative impacts are too great.

**We have chosen not to examine the technical details of the EIS. We have left that to professionals; we are only a layman and a laywoman and cannot possibly take the time from our profession to read all of the information. However we know that we and the communities in the area will be greatly impacted if this project is allowed to proceed.**

If this project along with the HVO south project is allowed to proceed by the government and the departments they show no regard for the historic village of Jerry's Plains and the men and women on the land that is supplying food for this country.

This is one of the finest agricultural Valleys in the world, why, why, why is it been destroyed for short term gain.

If we are to have a future after mining this CAN NOT be allowed to continue.

All we hear about is “don’t you want electricity” from the pro-miners, one of these already super pits in the valley will supply all of our electricity.

This is about the 1000’s of 1000’s of coal wagons travelling through Singleton to the Newcastle Coal Port the largest in the world to make multi- national companies extremely wealthy at our expense.

All we hear about is jobs, jobs and more jobs but no one ever mentions the men and women on the land that are been replaced by fluoro shirts.

Miners always talk about investigating critically endangered species – the most critically endangered species are the men and women on the land, which are been consumed by these super pits.

Surely we are not so dumb to let this march happen, yes we need mining in the right place, and this is not the right place. The cumulative impacts in this area are too great.

Thank you for allowing us to put forward our objections to this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Ian & Robyn Moore



