



environmentally concerned citizens of orange
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**Major Projects
NSW Government
December 13, 2022**

Re: Ulan Coalmine Mod 6.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange (ECCO) to express our opposition to the modification of the Ulan coalmine, which we understand is to extend the underground longwall panels to extract a further 25 million tonnes of thermal coal.

ECCO has been an opponent of such operations because of the demonstrable environmental harm they cause. ECCO is of the opinion that proposals such as the Ulan extension should not be considered, as we have massive problems with water and are in the midst of both a species extinction and climate crisis. The mining of more coal is not the solution to these problems. Quite the reverse.

Glencore, the owner and operator of the mine has made a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050. It is difficult to understand how it can meet this commitment when it plans to extract a further 25 million tonnes of coal, which will obviously make a significant contribution to the planet's greenhouse gases when burnt. Rather than extend the life of the mine, all efforts should be made to ensure its closure as soon as possible.

In addition to its contribution to our carbon emissions, the land clearing necessary for the extension will result in mor carbon emissions and the destruction and removal of significant wildlife habitat. Clearing for the mine would result in the loss of 24.7 ha of native vegetation, including 9.5 ha of critically endangered White Box, Yellow Box, Blakely's Red Gum Woodland ecological community, which provides habitat for numerous threatened flora and fauna communities. Such species include the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, endangered Koala, and Long Eared Pied Bat.

Mining operations have a significant impact on local water sources, particularly those of groundwater. The proposal in question is not an exception. It is estimated that cumulative water drawdown will cause loss of additional base flows to both the Goulburn and Talbragar Rivers. Additionally, the proposal threatens the iconic groundwater dependent system on the Goulburn River known as "the Drip". The existence of this iconic natural phenomenon is incorrectly

described, and there has been no acknowledgement of its connection to the local groundwater system.

ECCO respectfully requests that this project not be allowed to proceed. If as a nation we are to respond to the challenges of biodiversity loss, water management in the driest continent of Earth and the threat of runaway climate change, we must realise that it is imperative that mining projects such as the Ulan coal mine cease to operate as soon as possible. To extend the life of any coal mine when faced with the above challenges is illogical at best, and an act of environmental criminality at worst.

Yours sincerely
Neil Jones
President, ECCO