

Bev Smiles
3483 Ringwood Rd
Wollar 2850

bevsmiles85@gmail.com

Genevieve Lucas
Contact Planner
Resource Assessment
DPHI

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Dear Ms Lucas

Objection to Ulan Mod 6 Amendment 2

I object to the proposed expansion of Ulan Coal Mine to produce an additional 16.3 million tonnes of coal and extend the life of mine to 2035.

This proposal is directly linked to the proposed Ulan Mod 8 expansion, on exhibition for comment in November 2025, that will extract a further 43 MT coal and extend the life of mine to 2041. Mod 6 and Mod 8 cannot be assessed as separate expansions of the Ulan Coal Mine.

The Mod 6 Amendment 2 report (the report) fails to include an assessment of the cumulative impact of both expansions on biodiversity, water, Aboriginal cultural heritage and climate change. Continuing to mine coal until 2041 has significant implications for the NSW and Federal Government targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The recent report released by the NSW Net Zero Commission (Coal Mining Emissions Spotlight Report) has identified that any further expansion of coal mining will prevent NSW from meeting targets set under the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023.

The report also fails to adequately address the social and economic impacts of the predicted increase in extreme weather events on the locality, described through various modelled climate scenarios, as required under the EP&A Act s4.15

The report also fails to identify the cost and interruption to Ulan Coal Mine operations from extreme weather events. The rail infrastructure to the Port of Newcastle is particularly vulnerable. In extreme heatwave conditions. The rail line becomes unsafe and has already caused coal train derailments. Extreme storm events have caused flooding of the rail line in the Lower Hunter causing its closure. There has been no analysis of the disruption to infrastructure for export coal transport as a result of the climate change scenarios outlined in the report, including up to 2041.

The current assessment process for this large, combined expansion of the Ulan Coal Mine fails to provide independent, rigorous analysis of the cumulative impacts. The report also fails to

assess the cumulative impacts from the proposed neighbouring coal mine expansions, Wilpinjung Mod 3 and Moolarben Open Cut 3 – both currently under assessment.

The Ulan Coal Mine falls within the Central West Renewable Energy Zone with new transmission lines and renewable energy generators under construction in the region. There is no justification to expand coal mining to provide regional jobs or local economic stimulus when the renewable energy industry is now providing economic diversification without the costs of climate change.

There is no public benefit in expanding the Ulan Coal Mine until 2035 to facilitate an extension of mine life up to 2041.

The report clearly demonstrates the relationship between Mod 6 and Mod 8 in Figures 1.1, 1.5, 1.6 and 2.1. These proposals should be reassessed as a new project with the associated rigorous and independent determination process.

I strongly recommend that Mod 6 Amendment 2 be rejected through failing to meet the ESD principles of intergenerational equity, conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity and the precautionary principle.

Yours sincerely

B. Smiles

Bev Smiles