

# **WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

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**WOLLAR NSW 2850**

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Jack Turner  
Contact Planner  
Department of Planning and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Wednesday 14 December 2022

Dear Mr Turner

**Submission of Objection: Ulan Coalmine Modification 6 – underground mining extension (SSD MP08\_0184-Mod-6)**

Wollar Progress Association objects to the proposal to extend the life of the Ulan underground mine by 2 years. Community members living downstream on the Goulburn River have been severely impacted by the large-scale coal mining operations on the headwaters of the river, particularly in times of extreme weather events.

During extreme droughts, as experience between 2017 and early 2020, the loss of baseflows to the river system through mine drawdown caused the river to deteriorate leaving poor water quality and shrinking waterholes, to a level not experienced in previous hard drought conditions.

We believe the ongoing loss of baseflows to the river is the major cause for this increased impact. The groundwater model does not adequately predict the loss of flows during drought.

During extreme wet weather events the addition of mine discharge water to high flows lengthens the period of flood levels and increases the access issues within properties and on public roads.

The release of constant flow heights into the Goulburn River at 30 ML/d has altered the natural flow regimes to such an extent that the river now behaves as a regulated water source.

The proposal to continue drawing down groundwater from the landscape, into the mine workings, to then be released as treated water into the Goulburn River has completely destroyed the natural water balance on the river headwaters.

The prediction that additional drawdown from the proposed underground mining extension could affect base flows for up to 3,000 years is alarming and cannot be approved on the basis of negligence.

We strongly object to the ongoing misinformation promulgated by Glencore that 'The Drip' is not connected to the regional groundwater system. Ongoing impacts to all ecosystems connected to the Goulburn River and the downstream community who depend on it for stock and domestic rights have not been adequately assessed for the proposal.

Members of the Wollar community are constantly impacted by train movements at level crossings slowing down travel times. Additional coal extraction and train movements from the Ulan Mine until 2035 in addition to train movements from the Moolarben and Wilpinjong Mines has not been adequately addressed in the assessment report.

Our community has been severely impacted by the increase in extreme weather events due to the emerging influence of climate change. We have had 2 section 44 bushfires in the last 5 years, major prolonged drought between 2017 & 2020 and the Mogo Road causeway washed out by a flash flood on the Wollar Creek in a recent extreme rainfall event in 2022.

We strongly object to more coal being extracted when all international advice is to reduce carbon emissions to maintain a safe climate for society.

There is no adequate justification to continue the life of the Ulan coal mine beyond 2033. This project must be rejected.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bruce Hughes  
President