

WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022,
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Monday 27 February 2023

Submission of Objection

Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project
SSD-11826681 & SSD – 11826621

Wollar Progress Association represents a remote community in the Hunter Region that has been severely impacted by coal mining expansion. The Social and Health impacts of increased dust, noise, blasting and loss of community members through property acquisition is a significant impact that is not adequately assessed or mitigated.

The impacts of worsening weather extremes caused by climate change are a high risk to personal safety and to the local, regional, state and national economies.

The Wollar community has been threatened by two major Section 44 bushfires in the last six years. The 2017 fire came right to the Wollar village boundary. The recent major floods caused community members to be isolated for weeks with washed out causeways and flooded public roads. The condition of local road infrastructure was seriously damaged with a high cost to local and state governments to repair. Road safety has been severely compromised.

We strongly object to the HVO Continuation Project because it will be responsible for an additional 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere. This is counter to all international, national and state commitments to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°.

There is no valid justification for or merit in this project to extract a further 400 million tonnes of coal until 2050. Glencore and Yancoal are irresponsible multinational companies to put this project forward.

Both companies operate mines near the Wollar community and have access to coal and current large profits from numerous coal mining operations across the Hunter Region. The argument for extending jobs in the coal industry is counter to NSW Government investment in Renewable Energy Zones and new transmission lines.

We consider that Glencore is not a fit and proper entity to be granted further mining rights in NSW. Glencore has been fined for 'systematic criminality', bribery and market manipulation in a number of countries. Glencore is a diversified miner that should be moving away from coal.

Both multinational companies have a corporate responsibility to invest in renewable energy projects in third world countries, rather than talking up ongoing dependency on coal.

The predicted public benefit of the project through royalties and taxes is likely not to be met because increasing extreme weather events will impact coal industry production along with all other industries in the Hunter and NSW.

The cost of climate change, increased dust pollution, final voids and water source depletion have not been adequately assessed nor factored into the economic assessment for the project.

There is no merit in the HVO Continuation Project that warrants approval.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Hughes".

President