

Fiona Lee
Elands, NSW 2429

28 July 2025

To whom it may concern,

RE: Submission on Maules Creek Continuation Project EIS

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the Maules Creek Continuation Project EIS.

I write this submission as someone whose life has been irreversibly changed by climate change and who strongly opposes any further expansions or extensions of coal mines in NSW including at Maules Creek.

My family's home burned to the ground in the Black Summer bushfires. It's taken a long time to get back on our feet, having shouldered the financial burden of rebuilding our lives from nothing. And emotionally, the toll has been devastating.

All the while, massive coal companies like Whitehaven continue to post record profits. They are fuelling the climate crisis that is costing us everything, yet paying none of the price. It is ordinary families like mine who are left to carry the emotional, physical and financial burden of the impacts of climate change they are responsible for creating.

This must change. There can be no further expansions or extensions of coal mines in NSW, including at Maules Creek. Communities, including mine on the MidCoast of NSW, are already experiencing compounding and escalating impacts from global warming but this project will produce an extra 238 million tonnes of total greenhouse gas pollution making the problem worse.

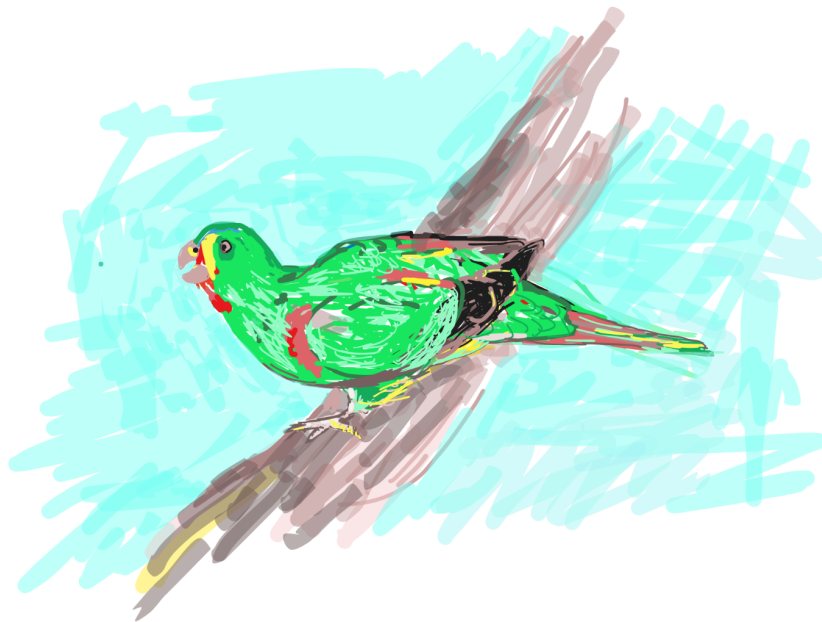
The direct emissions from the mining process itself, of over 3 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, will also completely undermine NSW achieving climate targets.

The NSW Government shouldn't be approving a coal mine expansion now that will not even start until 2034. It is locking in greenhouse gas emissions far into the future that we clearly can't afford.

Companies like Whitehaven know that climate laws are strengthening further in response to the rapidly escalating impacts of global warming in the form of more extreme weather events. That is why they are attempting to 'bank' this approval now.

The continued approval of coal mine expansions like Maules Creek, is fundamentally incompatible with meeting our targets, keeping our communities safe from escalating unnatural disasters and a net zero future.

And to make the problem worse, we also know there are big issues with potent methane leaking from coal mines. There have been a number of reports recently, including the Common Capital report which found these emissions are likely underestimated by at least half and are predicted to increase by 75% by 2035 in NSW. This is the opposite trajectory of what is required; the International Energy Agency says they must fall by 75% by 2030 to avoid climate catastrophe.



Finally, there are a number of other issues that alone should prevent this project from proceeding including the proposal to clear over 500 hectares of key foraging habitat for the Swift Parrot, despite only 500 of them remaining in the wild. The Maules Creek Continuation Project will push the species closer to extinction.

We also know that this expansion poses a major risk to local water resources. It will suck down water beneath local creeks and the groundwater used by farmers to water their stock.

None of this is fair or just. The Maules Creek Continuation Project needs to be rejected.

Sincerely,
Fiona Lee