

Introduction

I am writing to formally express my profound opposition to the proposed expansion of the Wilpinjong Mine. I live 50 kms from Wollar and have been a resident of MidWestern Regional Local Government Area for 30 years.

This project is fundamentally at odds with the urgent need to address the interconnected climate, biodiversity, and water crises. Approving it would represent a catastrophic failure of strategic planning and a betrayal of our commitment to a liveable planet for current and future generations. The reasons for my opposition are as follows:

1. The Climate Crisis and Policy Contradiction

The scientific consensus is clear: we are in a state of climate emergency. The continued burning of coal is the primary driver of this crisis, and the International Energy Agency has stated that to meet net-zero targets, no new coal mines or extensions can be developed.

It is therefore alarming and illogical that our state government, while publicly committing to net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050, continues to approve projects like the Wilpinjong expansion. This creates a dangerous credibility gap. We cannot claim to be putting out a fire while simultaneously pouring fuel on it. The emissions from this mine expansion will directly undermine state and national climate goals, locking in decades of further atmospheric pollution at a time when we must be rapidly decarbonising.

2. The Extinction Crisis and Habitat Destruction

The project area represents a vital fragment of natural habitat in a landscape already heavily impacted by industrial activity. We are in the midst of a global extinction crisis, and the destruction of this habitat for a coal mine is an unacceptable sacrifice.

The local flora and fauna have no alternative home. Clearing this land will destroy ecosystems, displace and kill native species, and sever wildlife corridors. In an era of collapsing biodiversity, the precautionary principle must prevail. The irreversible loss of this habitat for a temporary, polluting industry is an ethical and ecological failure we cannot afford. In particular the Wollar area has been mapped in 2024 with findings of higher populations of breeding colonies not thought to have existed in the past.

<https://raisely-images.imgix.net/scienceforwildlife/uploads/koala-habitat-probability-map-png-296932.png>

3. The threat to Critical Water Resources

In a warming climate, water is our most precious resource. The proposal acknowledges a significant drawdown of the local water table, which is cause for extreme alarm. This poses a direct threat to:

Agricultural enterprises that rely on groundwater for irrigation and livestock.

Local residents who depend on bores for their domestic water supply.

The health of river systems and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

At a time when eastern Australia faces increasingly severe droughts and water scarcity, it is reckless to approve a project that will degrade and diminish the water security of the region for all its inhabitants—human and non-human alike.

4. The Precedent: Opening the Floodgates

Above all, I am deeply concerned that the approval of the Wilpinjong Mine expansion would set a dangerous precedent, effectively opening the floodgates for a wave of similar applications. This is not an isolated project; it is a test case for the coal industry.

The most immediate and concerning consequence would be the bolstering of the case for the Moolarben Mine and other pending projects. Approving Wilpinjong would signal that the government's net-zero commitments are merely rhetorical and that the coal industry can continue its expansion unabated. We must draw a line in the sand. The refusal of this expansion is critical

to demonstrating a genuine commitment to a managed and equitable transition away from fossil fuels. It is high time the NSW Labor Government sends a clear message to the fossil fuel industry that it is OVER.

5. *Wollar's future is renewables - clean and vibrant*

The proposed Renewable Energy Zone is designed to start at Wollar. The point of which is to orientate ourselves AWAY from fossil fuels. Here is an ideal opportunity to emphasise its commitment to Net Zero policies and draw the line right here and reject this reckless and dangerous application. The Wollar village is geared up to return, revitalise and repopulate the community on the basis of the Renewable Energy Zone construction. There is no need for this old Wilpinjong dinosaur to be given the go ahead to thrash around and destroy everything in it's dying days. Just let it go quietly and reject this proposal which is no good for anybody.

Conclusion

For the health of our climate, the protection of our unique and irreplaceable biodiversity, the security of our water resources, and the integrity of our environmental policies, the Wilpinjong Mine extension must be rejected.

This decision is about more than a single mine; it is about the future we choose. I urge you to choose a future that is sustainable, just, and safe. Please recommend the refusal of this project.