

I strongly object to the new application Mod 3.

I am a member of the Wollar I community having lived at property 160(Fig 8a) for 33 yrs. I spent my childhood holidays in the area and explored mountains and valleys that now don't exist.

I was previously employed full time at Wollar Nursery and also by The Dept of Education at the Wollar School. I would meet friends at the Wollar shop, have lunch, get the car fixed and pick up supplies. I have been an active member of 7 different community groups that have reduced to being a member of the Wollar Progress Assoc and catering for the RFS when required. My husband is an active member of the RSF. I did commute to Mudgee after the nursery was forced to relocate from the impacts of Wilpinjong, making a 135km round trip daily at dawn and dusk. After writing off 2 cars in unavoidable collisions with wildlife I decided it wasn't worth it.

My husband is a carpenter and was busily employed in the area before Peabody arrived. We are now both having to travel away for occasional work. Our life resembles nothing of the past; we are now financially and socially isolated dealing with an approaching mine.

We are displaced people living in our own home being ignored by Peabody.

We are Peabody's collateral damage.

The proposed extension should not be assessed as a modification as it falls outside the current mining lease. It is part of a larger expansion project that will mine opposite the Wollar village and therefore this project is cunning and deceitful. The current SIMP approved May 2025 with no consultation with CCC or Wollar community. This modification should be assessed as a significant proposal with respect to a SIMP that is not compliant.

Visual impacts

The Wollar recreation ground is a community facility not recognised in LCZ. The magnitude of landscape character should definitely be HIGH.

LCZ1 National Park. This is the gateway to the GRNP, visitors will be subject to an open cut coal mine and removal of rocky outcrops as they drive towards the park.

The magnitude of visual impact should be HIGH.

LCZ2 Agricultural land should also be HIGH.

The photos in viewpoint Fig30 + 31 are highly misleading in fact deceitful. If the photo from the village was correct it would show a house rather than a non-existent corner created by photography.

There is no ridge line protecting the village as stated. The proposed extension is in the direct line of the village. Community members and visitors attending the community facilities will be in direct vicinity of a coal mine.

The Visual Impact Assessment is not fit for purpose.

Noise Impacts

At 160(Fig 8a) noise levels are currently unacceptable. Low frequency noise is not assessed adequately. We are currently modelled in zone 8 and should be in zone 9. This extension would be a ridge closer to our residence therefore in pit rock crushing will add considerable noise levels and blasts will create more impacts.

I can hear truck movements, loading, beeping, the movement of machinery tracks and of course blasting beside the low impact noise all of which will dramatically increase if the mine moves this side of the mountain currently giving us some protection, raising stress levels and anxiety contributing to the detriment of our wellbeing.

Peabody's noise expert some years ago stated that noise doesn't funnel down valleys or bounce off sandstone, that was pure fabrication as we are now living with both scenarios, noise funnelling from Wilpinjong mine and train noise bouncing off sandstone. The extension will increase the funnelling noise and extend the train movements. There is no consideration for properties downstream from the mine.

Peabody owns all residences in Wollar village because it could not comply with current noise impact requirements. Mine operation within hundreds of metres of the community facilities will cause considerable blast damage to structures and as stated could (definitely will) exceed blast criteria.

This noise assessment is not fit for purpose.

Air Quality

Modelling being used from 2022/23 wet years is just outrageous. This is once again deceitful. This assessment is not a representation of what air quality may be unless it rains as much as 2022/23. If assessed by extreme years then 2018/19 should be included in modelling.

We currently smell spon com from Wilpinjong at our property, it is sickening and a threat to our health which will increase if the mine moves closer. The modelling for current mining approval indicated no exceedances of air quality was predicted to arise at any private dwellings yet we are experiencing spon com on a regular basis so proactive and reactive management measures are currently not acceptable and based on the same modelling but closer to our residence the proposed extension will exacerbate this health hazard. Dust management is inadequate in windy conditions and will further impact community facilities and surrounding residents.

Diesel emissions from trains have not been included in assessment.

This Air Quality assessment is not fit for purpose.

Water

Wilpinjong's current operation is an example of a failing assessment. The modelling was incorrect and now they seek a huge water release.

The current approval is to release into Wilpinjong creek.

2.2 surface water states there are no known private water users downstream from Wollar creek but as this runs into the Goulburn River it is therefore false information as there are private users just below Wollar creek confluence with the Goulbourn.

The extension will encroach on the natural catchment for Wollar creek.

O'briens crossing is a low-level crossing on the Goulburn River providing access to the main road. Three mines are currently releasing into the same water system. The water is much higher than it would naturally be and stays at an increased level during rain events making the road impassable. The concrete crossing is deteriorating under stress from water levels and salt content, should Wilpinjong release more water these problems would be exacerbated.

Serious and Irreversible Impacts

Koalas

Endangered

The loss, modification and fragmentation of habitat is the biggest threat to koalas.

Destruction of habitat including corridors between GRNP and Munghorn NP would be serious and irreversible for Koalas.

Large Eared Pied Bat and Eastern Cave Bat

Endangered species

The large population of bats in this area have been given little consideration. This extension would affect 2 breeding caves and 5 maternity sites, which are in close proximity to foraging habitat. There is no demonstrated evidence to suggest bats will return to a mining site with no foraging habitat or use an artificial concrete habitat, causing both direct and indirect impacts.

Regent HoneyEater

This assessment ignores the current breeding sites of the Regent HoneyEater in the GRNP and will directly remove mapped areas of important habitat.

Indirect Impacts

The connectivity between Munghorn NP and GRNP would be impacted.

Box gum woodland communities are water dependent and would therefore be indirectly impacted.

Employment

Direct employment at Wilpinjong is relatively small. There are many jobs available in other mines in this area and also many in renewable energy. Mining has caused a huge shortage of tradespeople for residential projects and maintenance so plenty of work there. The small

number of contractors that would be employed for infrastructure realignment would travel a considerable distance, are therefore not local employees and would not make any contribution to the area.

This modification report fails to address the cumulative and intrusive social impacts on the community. It does not represent a continuation of existing mining, it is moving into the edge of a village with no mountain, ridgeline or any buffer. This experience would be devastating for the Wollar community.

In weighing up the environmental impacts associated with this proposal, on balance is not considered to have any merit or be in the public interest.