

PO Box 8568
Orange East
NSW 2800

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Expansion

As a citizen scientist and person interested in the environment, I object to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Expansion proposal. I live in Orange, NSW, and despite not living near the mine site I recognise it will have an impact on me and my family. This will be through the impact of Greenhouse Gas emissions on climate change, through burning of the coal that will be mined. The mine will also add to the cumulative impact of habitat destruction on critically endangered and threatened species and communities. As a birdwatcher I am very aware of how close to extinction the Regent Honeyeater is and have seen the decline in other species such as the Hooded Robin. For these and other species, such as the microbats and Box Gum Woodland, the removal of 155ha of habitat is another blow to their survival. Another issue of concern for me are the impacts of the mine on the local water catchments and groundwater where the quantity and quality of the water will decline.

The destruction of an additional 15 Aboriginal cultural heritage sites also greatly concerns me. I have worked with Wiradjuri Elders and have some understanding of how important the landscape and country is to them. Just like threatened species this gradual chipping away of their heritage should not be allowed. This same gradual chipping away has also occurred for the Wollar community where the social impact of the existing mine has been significant. It will only increase with this proposed extension that will reach to the boundary of the village and create dust, noise and light pollution and affect air quality for residents.

When looking at the proposal documents I was shocked to see that the cover photo of woodland and a rocky outcrop was actually an area that would be destroyed by the mine. This gives a very false picture of the impact of the mine. The photo that should have been there is the one below it of a mine and machinery that is blurred by a blue wash. This is a very unfortunate example of 'green washing' and gives a false impression of the project.

It seems illogical to me to have such a large expansion of a coal mine proposed in a Renewable Energy Zone whose aim is to secure a green energy future to meet climate change targets. One way of achieving these targets is to not have more coal mines and burn more coal.

Rather than a minor modification to the existing mine this proposal appears to be the first step in a larger mine expansion. It should therefore be assessed as a new project and rejected for all the reasons listed above.

Sincerely



Rosemary Stapleton

29/10/2025