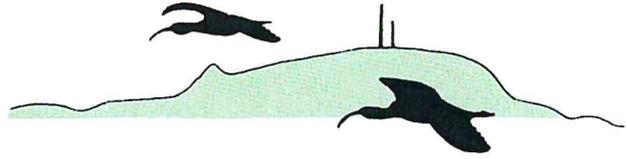


**ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST
& CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

PO BOX 369
ORANGE NSW 2800
orangefieldnats@gmail.com



Re: Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Expansion

To whom it may concern

Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society (OFNCS) strongly objects to the proposed Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Expansion. It will further threaten already threatened species, Endangered Ecological Communities and other fauna and habitat. This will not just be by clearing of 155 ha but by the long-term climate impact of the huge volume of coal that will be mined and then burned.

The Society is composed of community members, conservationists, and scientists. Since its formation in 1974 it has been an advocate for the environment in the Central West. Our members have an interest in the environment now, but also into the future for their children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Critically Endangered Ecological Communities (CEEC) and species have been assessed as being at an extremely high risk of extinction. The area of the mine expansion will further threaten two CEEC and the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. Habitat mapped as being important for the Regent Honeyeater will be removed. This expansion will also directly affect eleven other endangered or vulnerable species. These include the Long-eared Pied Bat, the Eastern Cave Bat, Koalas, and bird species. Connectivity between patches of remnant bushland and the adjacent National Park and Nature Reserve is critical for some threatened species. Removal of that vegetation will have an impact on these species. As it is an open cut mine the extra lighting may also impact the movement of some of these species.

Surface run-off and groundwater in the local catchment will be permanently reduced and affected by the mine. The assessment of the mine does not adequately consider the impact of drawdown of ground water on the groundwater dependent Box Gum Grassy Woodland, which is an CEEC. The impact on other water dependent species must also be assessed.

While the Society's focus is on protecting the environment the loss of Aboriginal cultural and spiritual heritage and the social impact on the Wollar community of this expansion is also of significant concern.

It is quite contradictory to have this coal mine expansion, which will result in over 25MT of Greenhouse Gas emission, in the Central West Renewable Energy Zone (CWREZ). Declaration of the CWREZ recognises that there is a need to move to alternative forms of clean power generation and to help mitigate the effects of climate change. Any net public benefit and income from the expansion will be small compared to the impacts of climate change generated extreme weather events, like we have experienced at Eugowra. The impacts of climate change on biodiversity and communities will also come at a cost.

The scale and nature of this proposal and its impact go beyond it being considered a modification of the current mine. It should therefore be considered and assessed as a new project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and voice our objections to this proposal.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Selwood', written over a large, stylized flourish that extends across the left side of the page.

Geoff Selwood
President, Orange Field Naturalist & Conservation Society
29 October 2025