

Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Extension

Dear Sir

I object to this proposed modification and urge that this proposal be assessed as new project.

I am an active member of my local conservation group and I have completed the Graduate Diploma Environmental Studies at Macquarie University.

The proposed mine expansion should not be assessed as a modification because it differs substantially from the current approved mine. The factors that demonstrate that this project differs substantially from the current approved mine include the following-

1. Releasing over 25 MT of additional Greenhouse Gas emissions
2. First stage of a bigger mine expansion
3. Mining to the boundary of Wollar Village
4. Disturbing an additional 155 ha:
 - Loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage and spiritual landscape for Wiradjuri Nation
 - Destroying more important habitat for the nationally threatened Large-eared Pied Bat, Eastern Cave Bat, Regent Honeyeater and Koala
5. Permanently altering and degrading alluvial groundwater sources and surface flows in the Wollar Creek catchment.
6. Increasing pollution through poorly assessed noise, dust, blasting, onsite coal ignition (spontaneous combustion), lighting and water contamination
7. Increasing social impacts, loss of amenity and ongoing disturbance of rural way of life
8. Slowing the transition to clean energy future – competing with the Central West Renewable Energy Zone that starts at Wollar
9. The project is not needed to provide regional jobs – there is a huge workforce shortage for renewable energy projects in the Central West
10. There is no economic justification, the increased climate change impacts will cost more than public income generated through royalties and taxes

Wilpinjong has submitted a modification proposal in place of a full development application. The proposal must be subject to independent scrutiny of a full development application.

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