

30 October 2025

I oppose the proposed Wilpinjung Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Extension. The expansion should not be assessed as a modification because it differs substantially from the current approved mine. Its purpose is to facilitate a much larger expansion in the near future that surrounds Wollar village. This ‘modification’ proposal should be assessed as a new project.

Key points of objection:

1. The proposed expansion will release over 25MT of additional greenhouse gases. For reference, this is about the same amount as emitted by all transport in NSW per year. Further, science tells us that climate change is accelerating and it is the responsibility of all parties to dramatically **reduce** GHG emissions **now**.
2. This is **not a ‘modification’**. It falls outside the current mining lease and is part of a much larger expansion project.
3. Mining to the boundary of Wollar Village results in serious wealth and well-being impacts on local people.
4. The expansion will result in habitat destruction of nationally endangered species such as endangered microbats, **critically endangered** regent honeyeater and endangered koalas.
5. Loss of Aboriginal cultural heritage including the **destruction of an additional 15 sites**.
6. The expansion threatens water.
7. Pollution from noise, dust, blasting, coal ignition and environmental contamination.
8. Regional jobs are available in nearby locations such as forward-looking renewable energy projects. The expansion of a 19th century dead-end industry is not needed to provide jobs.
9. There is no economic justification for the expansion. The increased climate change impacts will cost more than public income generated through royalties and taxes. There is no net economic benefit considering the points above. In fact, there is a net (hidden) cost including contribution to climate change that will be paid for by the next 50 generations of people.

On this basis, please reject Peabody’s modification proposal for Wilpinjung Coal Mine.

Thank you for considering this submission.