



DAMS HEG Objection to Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Extension

30th October, 2025

Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group (DAMS HEG) provides community voice to industry and all levels of government in defense of our natural environment in the interests of human health and well-being, and the protection of biodiversity.

We won legal recognition in the NSW Court of Appeals that the climate impact of MACH Energy's Mount Pleasant Optimisation Project on the locality must be considered. We are currently experiencing climate damage at a greater rate than our government infrastructure maintenance services can manage and this rate will increase as climate change intensifies. People in NSW are still homeless from the 2019 bushfires and the Lismore and Taree floods, which had housing and infrastructure damage far beyond those districts.

Wilpinjong will disrupt ancient groundwater systems . This is permanent and has consequences for nature and agriculture. We can expect vulnerability of our food chains, beyond bananas, lettuce and tomatoes as climate change intensifies.

Tragically, there will also be growing numbers of climate refugees, societies wrecked, lives lost by the large-scale extreme weather event devastation, as is happening in Jamaica, yesterday and Cuba today.

To allow Wilpinjong a short-term project even in human terms, to destroy 155 Ha habitat of the Large-eared Pied Bat, the Eastern Cave Bat, Regent Honey Eater and the well known Australian icon, the Koala, is to be ignorant of the value of nature, the responsibility for our unique natural heritage and the wonder of thousands of millions of years of evolution. This industrial scale destruction of Wiradjuri landscape is insensitive and arrogant.

Wollar, turned to a ghost town by the coal industry, is in exactly the right place to revive, offer accommodation and services to some of the workers in the Central West Renewable Energy Zone. It does not need a coalmine adjacent.

NSW and Australia must navigate this transition. Everybody knows this. People in power have known it for more than 25 years. Continually allowing increasing increments, as modifications, is hurting NSW, Australia and the world. It is costing time and creating investment confusion. And the people are not learning the truth of the extreme of our climate emergency and environmental collapse. We need to properly turn away from fossil fuels and expansions and focus on the best paths forward with renewables.

We urge Wilpinjong Modification 8 be rejected.

Yours sincerely,
Wendy Wales
President
DAMS HEG Inc