

Thursday 30th October 2025

Re: [Objection to MOD 3 - Pit 8 Extension](#)

The Sydney Basin Koala Network is a project of Total Environment Centre and works closely with environment groups across the Sydney Basin Bioregion who are deeply concerned about the impacts to Koalas from development such as mining. The location of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine is within the Sydney Basin Bioregion in an area with long-term generational persistence of Koalas, with sightings spanning more than 20 years ([Biolink 2023](#)).

We **object** to the proposed exhibited extension of a coal mine in the Wollar Village. There are many reasons this coal mine should be rejected, but our specific objections relate to the severing of an active Koala corridor from the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, evidenced by recent sightings throughout the surrounding habitat.

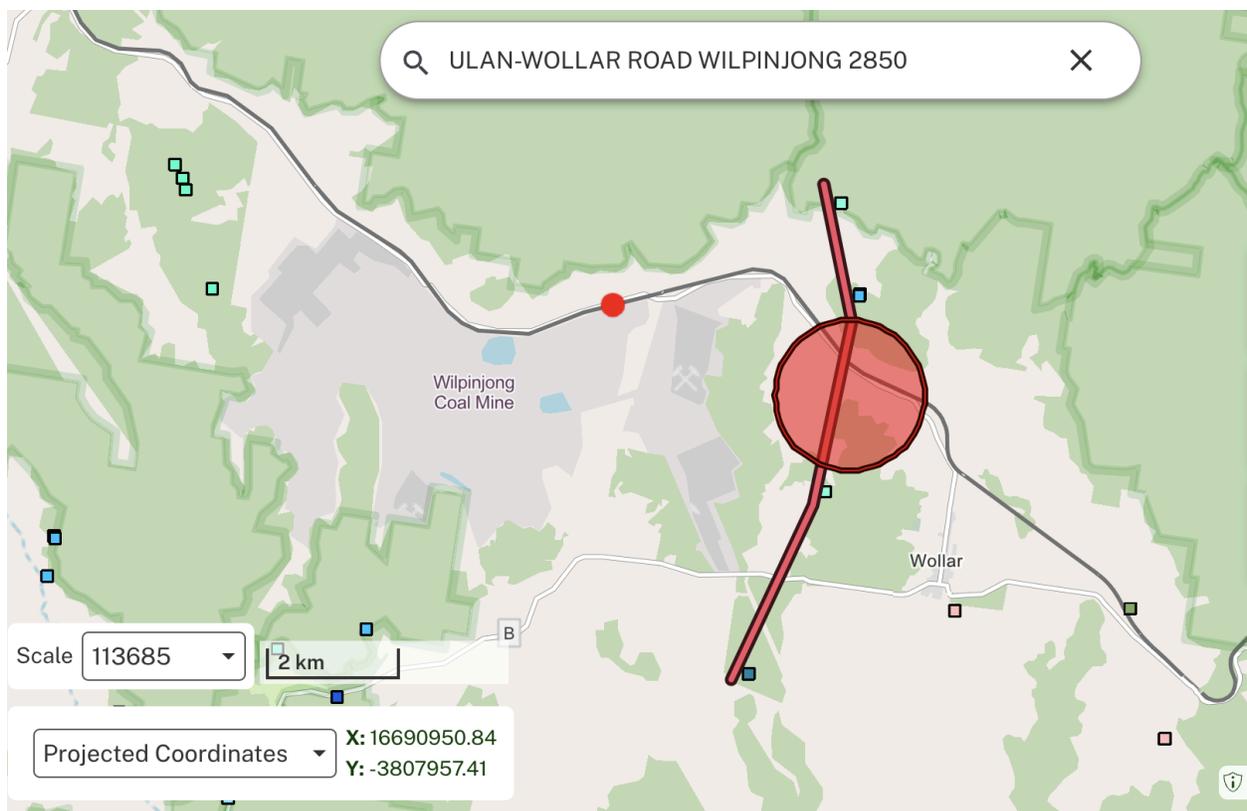


Figure 1: Recent sightings of Koalas show evidence of a Koala corridor that the mine extension will sever. (source: Bionet/SEED).

[Studies of the habitat](#) in Mid-Western council by Science for Wildlife (2024) found the habitat in and around both the Goulburn River National Park and Munghorn Gap

Nature Reserve is highly suitable Koala habitat, making connections between the National Park and the reserve essential for maintaining Koala persistence and genetic diversity.

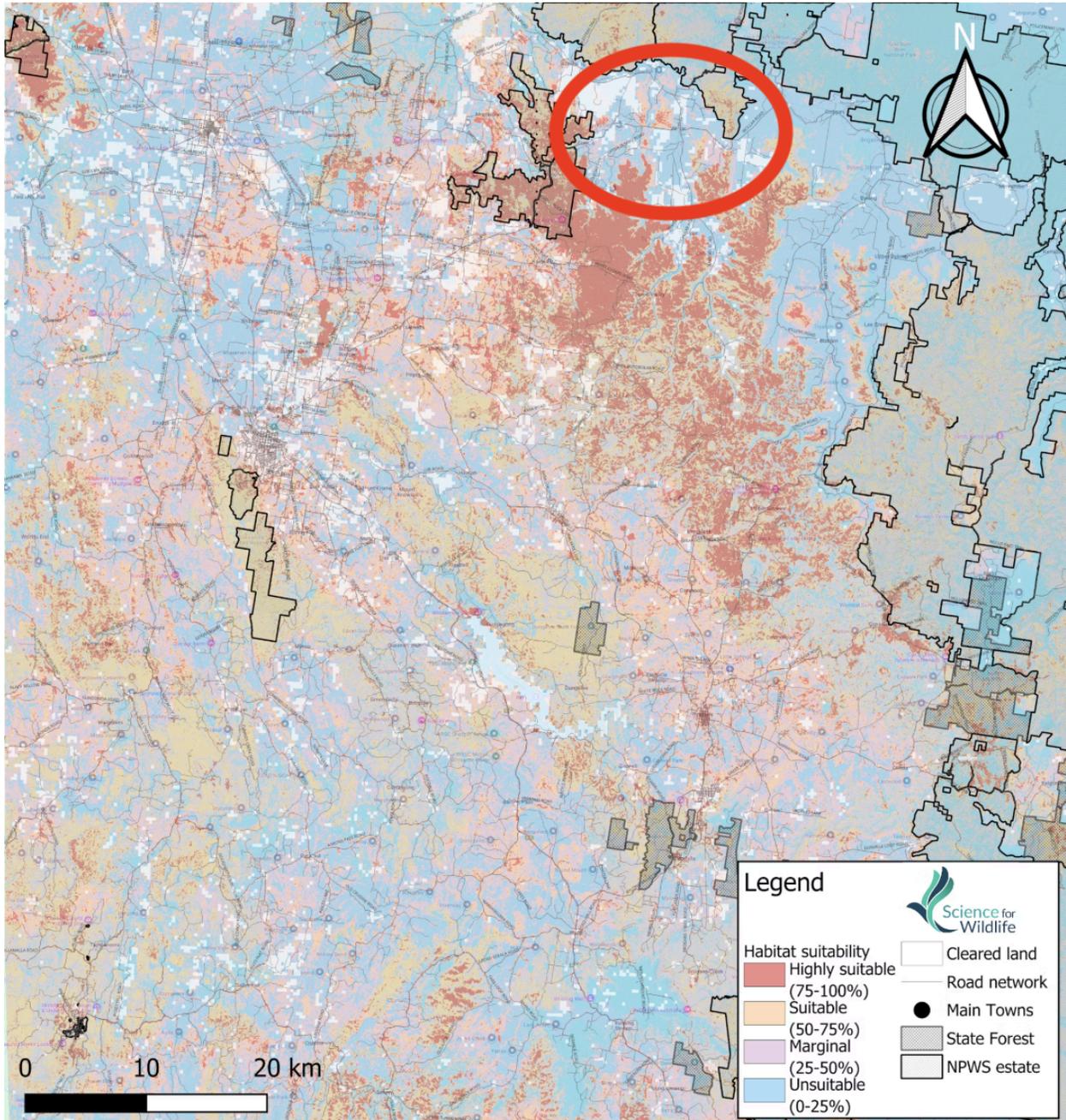


Figure 2: Science for Wildlife habitat mapping showing the area is highly suitable for Koalas.

This connectivity between the Golburn River National Park and Munghorn Nature Reserve also facilitates movement south to the Wollemi National Park, it is essential these links are preserved. Well-connected habitat supports Koala dispersal, genetic



diversity, and ecosystem integrity. It also provides essential habitat to escape the immediate impacts of bushfire, and longer terms impacts of climate change. With Koalas on track to be extinct in the wild in NSW by 2050, proposed offsetting and rehabilitation will not adequately address the immediate needs of the species, consistent with the [National Recovery Plan for the Koala](#) (DCCEEW, 2023).

Other objections to this mine extension are as follows:

- We note the significant impact on two critically endangered ecological communities and eleven endangered fauna species, including the Large-eared Pied Bat and Regent Honeyeater.
- We also note the impact to Wollar Village community, with increased pollution, the alteration of flows to Wollar Creek and the destruction of groundwater systems, and the ongoing impact to areas of First Nations significance.
- Not least extending coal mines in the midst of a biodiversity and climate crisis should be an indefensible proposition with this proposed mine extension contributing 25 MT of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

Considering the negative impacts this development will have on koalas and other species, the community at Wollar, and the negative consequences of escalating climate fuelled disasters in NSW, the Sydney Basin Koala Network urges you to reject this proposed extension.

Koala corridors need to be preserved throughout NSW if we have any hope for the recovery of the species. Instead this proposal endangers koala survival in the region and undermines conservation efforts.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these important points.

Yours sincerely,
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