

Wilpinjong Coal Mine Mod 3 – Pit 8 Extension

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object strongly to the Mod 3 – Pit 8 Extension (SSD-6764-Mod-3) on exhibition.

We live in Sydney “protected” from the direct adverse impacts of extraction of coal from the ground. However, directly affected communities such as Wollar have to live constantly with the currently poorly assessed noise and dust impacts of the existing Wilpinjong mine and its pollution of their local water sources.

But communities in Sydney as well as Wollar are not protected from the indiscriminate impacts of a changing climate wreaking havoc across the globe. It makes no sense to further increase the Greenhouse Gas emissions that cause global warming at a time when Australia transitions to cleaner energy options. It is ironic that, as this modification is being exhibited, Wollar is the site of the first approved Regional Energy Zone in NSW.

The new areas of coal extraction proposed in this spurious SSD modification suggest it is not a modification of an activity whose impacts are well identified and controlled impacts: this is a first stage proposal of new activity that is outside the current mining lease area and in an area that immediately adjoins the village of Wollar.

The applicant has ignored the adverse impacts arising from this new activity on the local biodiversity of Wollar and its regional importance in landscape connectivity for a range of endangered species and ecological communities; it is a “thirsty” activity in an area where water is such a precious resource for local communities and the environment.

I urge that be rejected outright.

Yours sincerely
Cathy Merchant