

17/11/2025

Personal Submission to NSW Department of Planning Regarding the proposed expansion of Ulan Coal Mine Mod 8 – Ulan West Continued Operations

My name is David Anderson, I am a property owner at 310 White Cedars Rd, Kains Flat. NSW 2850.

I wish to take this opportunity to voice my concerns regarding potential impacts of this expansion to the existing Ulan coal mine in the vicinity of my property.

My family has had ownership of this property for over forty years. In that time, my family and I have grown to greatly appreciate the biodiversity of this area. Having spent many years exploring the the Goulburn River National Park, “Drip gorge”, Mugnhorn Gap Nature Reserve. These areas offer a vast array of plant, bird and wildlife species.

My key concerns are:

1. Impacts on the Goulburn River system. A proposed new tailings dam with an area of 132 ha within a revegetated, rehabilitated old open cut pit next to Goulburn River risking leakage of toxic contaminants. Increased and extended water releases into Goulburn River increasing salt load to the already impacted river system.
2. The modification assessment needs “new project” status, enabling a rigorous process including an Environmental Impact Statement and independent oversight. Particularly, considering this proposal is outside the existing boundary of the mine site.
3. Cumulative impacts of mining in the region needs to be considered. The two adjacent mines, Moorlaben and Wilpinjong are in the process of lodging substantial expansions to their operations. Moorlaben with open cut 3 and underground 4 (approved). Wilpinjong currently has an application in with the department to expand it’s operation, with potentially more to come. Aside from these coal mines. Approval has been given to Bowdens lead, zinc and silver mine in nearby Lue. The Mudgee region is becoming an ever increasing mine site.
4. Likely negative impacts to the Mudgee region tourism and liveability. The regions status as an inland tourism hotspot will be compromised as it becomes known as an ever expanding mine.
5. This coal expansion flies in the face of the NSW government major commitment to renewable transition in the region, by way of the Orana Central West Renewable Energy Zone.
6. With region wide work force shortages. The mine expansion will be in direct competition with the renewable energy zone projects for skilled workers.
7. Additional emissions of 105mT are only multiplying this climate emergency. In economic terms any royalties generated by this expansion will be more than cancelled out through the remediation of future climate impacts to wider community.

Yours sincerely

David Anderson

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