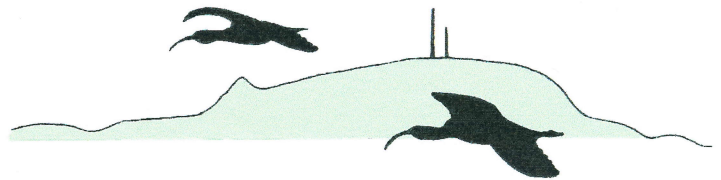


**ORANGE FIELD NATURALIST  
& CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC.**

PO Box 369

ORANGE NSW 2800



**Objection to Ulan Coal Mod 4**

**Deadline: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**

The Orange Field Naturalist and Conservation Society is writing to you to state that we object to the proposal to modify the mine plan at the Ulan Underground and Ulan West Operations mines and associated infrastructure.

The Society's members are amateur and professional naturalists and conservationists who take a particular interest in the management and protection of flora and fauna, western flowing rivers in NSW and the impact of mining on regional groundwater.

The proposed modifications at Ulan will affect the base flows of the Talbragar River and impact the downstream riverside environment and water users. As the Talbragar flows into the Macquarie River these changes in flow, and the changes that will intercept groundwater sources, have the potential to have a wider effect in the Murray-Darling Basin. The natural feature of The Drip also needs protection.

The extension of surface infrastructure will increase the area of disturbance of the mine and again impact on the flora and fauna notably within Durrigere State Conservation Area (SCA). It is also a worry that mining will occur under this SCA.

We feel that the assessment of environmental impacts on the SCA is inadequate. It does not identify habitat requirements of the threatened animal species known from the area. Whilst vegetation types have been discussed, there needs to be a stronger focus on other habitat characteristics, such as hollows, rock outcrops and drainage lines.

Within a short distance of the area (< 3 km), there are 22 threatened woodland bird species including the critically endangered Swift Parrot, and three threatened mammal species, including two listed as vulnerable under Federal environmental legislation.

Members of the Society are also very concerned about the likely impact this proposal will have on climate change, which the NSW government has pledged to address. The increase in carbon emissions will have a cost to the environment that has not been adequately assessed.

We thank you for the opportunity to have our concerns heard and trust that these are adequately taken into consideration.

Regards

Rosemary Stapleton

Secretary

30 April 2018