

Mr Brendan Liew  
Major Project Assessment  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

31 August 2013

Dear Mr Liew,

Modification to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Project (05\_0021 MOD 5)  
Submission of objection

I am writing to you to express my dismay at yet another proposal for a coalmining modification in our region.

There has never been a proper consideration of the cumulative environmental and social impacts of the three mines, Ulan, Moolarben and Wilpinjong, even though they are in very close proximity to each other, and is still the case with this application.

Wollar was once a much-loved village community which has basically been destroyed by the Wilpinjong mine, the negative socio-economic impacts not given any real credence in the approval process. As a result the social fabric of the village has been shattered. People are unable to sell their properties and are faced with continuing noise, dust and pollution. Their health has been affected as a result of these impacts.

The issue of uncovered coal wagons must be addressed. Studies from overseas show that wagons lose three per cent of their load per trip. When you consider the huge tonnages involved, this loss is very significant, particularly in the Hunter rail corridor where the massive coalmining expansion has resulted in a corresponding increase in noise, dust and traffic.

Also the monitoring and measuring of coal pollution and noise is very poor. The smallest particulate matter (PM 2.5 micrometres or less) which is also the most dangerous, is virtually not measured at all. The Australian Medical Association has called for wagons to be covered but to no avail.

To approve new mines and new extensions without addressing these problems is reprehensible.

I would now like to address other issues concerning this application.

The proposed modification will extend the open cut by 70 ha, and will increase the extraction of run-of-mine coal by 3 million tonnes over the life of the project. This is poor quality coal that will be dug up. As the price of coal has fallen, I do not see any justification for this modification to go ahead, nor has a case been made in the Environment Assessment Report. World governments have committed to a carbon price mechanism in 2015, so the price of coal is not going to rise again.

Climate change is being taken seriously internationally, and climate scientists worldwide are saying that global warming is happening much faster than predicted. We have no time to lose, and certainly no time to continue granting coal licenses and modifications to extract more coal.

Please do not let this modification through.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Diane O'Mara

[REDACTED]

Gulgong NSW 2852

Tel: [REDACTED]