

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

Modification to the Wilpinjong Coal Mine Project (05_0021 MOD 5)
Submission of Objection: Deadline Monday 9 September

Friday, September 06, 2013.

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept my submission of **strong objection** to the proposed expansion of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. As I understand, the following modification involves:

- extending the open cut mining footprint by 70 hectares;
- increasing extraction of run-of-mine coal by 3 million tonnes over the life of the project;
- increasing annual waste rock production from 28 million bank cubic metres (Mbcm) to 33.3 Mbcm;
- upgrading the existing coal handling and preparation plant and reverse osmosis plant;
- minor changes to the proposed rehabilitation and final landform; and
- operating an on-site light vehicle servicing workshop.

My main points of objection are as follows:

1. This mine has already had a negative socio-economic impact on Wollar. The community was not adequately considered in the initial approval, in fact it appears that Peabody have deliberately set out to break down the community of Wollar and remove as much source of complaint as they possibly can. As a result there has been an ongoing loss of neighbours and social support systems and this has been ongoing.
2. The previous model of predictions for environmental impacts of the mine have been proven to be inaccurate, so how can the remaining community be expected to have faith in any further models.
3. Wilpinjong, in general, yields a very poor quality coal. Considering the large environmental footprint of the mine, there is no justification for the need to access an additional 3 million tonnes.
4. The remaining community will have to endure an increased blasting frequency with higher Maximum Instantaneous Charge (MIC)
5. Up to 20 train movements per day will prevail, adding to the dust and pollution as they are all uncovered carriages.
6. The mine has a poor history of rehabilitation practices eg invasive species such as Rhodes Grass has been introduced. This proposal will destroy 20 ha of country identified for regeneration in original conditions of consent.
7. Greenhouse gas emissions - Scope 1,2 & 3: 236, 036, 811 t CO₂-e
8. Biodiversity – An additional 52 ha woodland and grassland including 10.6ha federally listed critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) will be destroyed.

The proposed biodiversity offset for CEEC is only 4:1 – this is far from an adequate ratio with

116 native fauna species recorded in area of impact, including 9 threatened species (5 birds and 4 bat species)

9. Aboriginal cultural heritage – 17 sites, scar tree and area of cultural association will be impacted.
10. Poor consideration of cumulative environmental and social impacts with adjacent Moolarben and Ulan mines
11. Noise, dust, and pollution from spontaneous combustion are already unacceptable; these side effects are bound to worsen with an expansion approval.

My family have lived and worked within the Wollar community for in excess of 100 years. It is heartbreaking to see the delaminating effect Peabody and the Wilpinjong mine has had from the word go. The obvious lack of respect for the people of Wollar has been ongoing with the constant pressure to sell and the hassling of some residents at all hours of the day and night by mine representatives. This has been compounded by the ever increasing noise, dust and smell from the continuing spontaneous combustion issues. Although we're assured by the experts that the levels of toxic gases are nothing to worry about, the fact that we can smell something laughs in the face of the notion that we live outside the 'buffer zone' and in an 'area of non disturbance.'

Residents are continually woken in the middle of the night to the sounds of dozer tracks or the dump trucks going through the gears. Dust is a regular companion in the village and a constant threat to our drinking water. With increased blasting and activity this will naturally impact on the quality of life of the residents.

The residents of Wollar have had to endure poor roads, caused by traffic never intended for that type of road design and construction. We've put up with a maintenance compound with a high chain lock fence erected in the middle of our village when it could have been erected somewhere less intrusive on the hundreds of acres of mine owned property. Our rubbish tip has been used for waste which is grossly disproportionate to the population, not to mention the derelict houses improperly secured and left to deteriorate.

A further expansion of the Wilpinjong mine will exacerbate all of the above problems and further degrade the way of life my family has enjoyed for a long time and it will contradict what the community was led to expect from the initial proposal prior to 2005.

I reiterate that I **strongly oppose** any expansion of the mine or increase in production.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Fetch.
16 Barigan St, Wollar.