

## **Objection to Wambo Modification 17 – South Bates Extension**

### **1. Invalid application**

This application for a 75W modification to the existing approval is invalid as a new mining lease is required.

A requirement for a new mining lease means that it is a new proposal not a modification of an existing project.

The application should be rejected on that basis alone

### **2. Not a fit person**

Peabody Energy, the ultimate owners of the Wambo mining project have only recently emerged from bankruptcy in the US. In order to manage this they reneged on \$2.7 billion of rehabilitation liabilities.

Peabody Energy has failed to meet current commitments to address the long term subsidence impacts on Wambo Creek

### **3. Increased unacceptable impacts**

This project, if approved will lead to further subsidence under North Wambo Creek and the creek diversion including the associated alluvial aquifers. The cumulative impact of this subsidence together with increased ponding, cracking and loss of base flows should not be approved.

This project proposes the extension of nine new longwall panels to within 120m of the World Heritage listed Wollemi National Park. The result of that will be rock falls, instability of cliff lines and steep slopes which is completely environmentally unacceptable.

### **4. Cumulative Impacts**

The cumulative impacts of coal mining in the Hunter Valley have not been considered.

There needs to be an independent assessment of the cumulative impacts from surrounding large mines at Hunter Valley Operations, Mt Thorley, Warkworth, United and Bulga operations on Aboriginal cultural heritage, water sources, biodiversity, residents and the World Heritage Listed Wollemi National Park. These have not been assessed.

## **5. Climate change**

In order to keep global warming increase below 2 degrees Celsius, 90% of Australian coal needs to be left in the ground, not dug up. This proposal to extend the mine life to produce 11.3 mtpa of coal for another 7 years until 2039 is a climate and intergenerational injustice.

The Wambo mine produces large quantities of methane gas that is released into the atmosphere or flared. Methane gas is one of the worst greenhouse gases. Flaring it to produce CO<sub>2</sub> is bad enough, but allowing it to be vented into the atmosphere should not be allowed under any circumstances. The greenhouse gas emissions from this operation are too high.

I request that the PAC reject this application

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