

Wambo Modification 17 – South Bates Extension

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That the DPE is considering yet another extension to this mine merely to increase coal output is an abomination. To which I **OBJECT STRONGLY!**

The mine is owned by Peabody Energy whose record with this mine since 1969 to date has shown lamentable lack of environmental Duty of Care and a totally cavalier attitude to near neighbours. The mine is very close to the World Heritage listed Wollemi National Park and has severely impacted on the Wambo Creek systems, Wollombi Brook and Hunter catchment, surrounding farm land and neighbouring communities, Aboriginal cultural heritage and biodiversity.#

This application follows closely on approval granted in December 2016 to commence what will be the start of a "Super-Pit" and the large joint venture project, United-Wambo open cut mine (with neighbouring miner Glencore) is currently before the Department of Planning. These ongoing extensions and large super pit proposals are not sustainable developments. The cumulative impact of mining in this area of the Hunter is vast and the NSW Govt is refusing to adequately assess the long-term costs both to local communities and to mankind.

The proposal to extend the mine life to produce 11.3 MT/pa of coal for another 7 years until 2039 is a climate injustice. There are no more jobs, simply more coal to pollute a world already reeling under the impact of too much coal.

Australian Government lack of concern for global impacts and mindless insistence on selfish minor "gains" (profits go overseas royalties amount to 1.5% of total NSW revenue!) is an insult to other nations that do pursue their climate commitments seriously.

Exporting coal to be burned elsewhere is both a crime against humanity but also a gross delinquency toward intergenerational equity

The Wambo mine produces large quantities of gas that is released into the atmosphere or flared. The greenhouse gas emissions from the operation are too high.

Historically, Peabody Energy has shown that it cannot be trusted to meet mine closure and rehabilitation commitments.

The recent recapitalisation under Chapter 11 in the US included reneging on \$2.7b of rehabilitation liabilities.

Villages like Bulga are already squeezed between coal-mining projects that that intend (with DPE's blessing) to leave massive voids and land that will be impossible to rehabilitate into anything approaching the original.

It is time to say "Enough is enough!"

For all of the above;

I OBJECT STRONGLY TO ANY EXPANSION OF THIS MINE'S CAPACITY and to the modification 17 proposed.

J Leslie

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