

Wambo Modification 17 – South Bates Extension

Groundswell Gloucester objects to this proposal for the following reasons.

- The project should be a new proposal, not a 75W modification, because a new mining lease is required.
- The extension of nine new longwall panels within 120m of the World Heritage listed Wollemi National Park is unacceptable. This will cause rock falls and instability of cliff lines and steep slopes.
- Further subsidence under North Wambo Creek and the creek diversion including the associated alluvial aquifers is too great a cumulative impact. Increased ponding, cracking and loss of base flows cannot be approved.
- Peabody Energy has not fulfilled current commitments to address long term subsidence impacts on Wambo Creek.
- Wambo Mine already has approval for the extensive Wambo South underground mine that has not yet commenced.
- The proposal to extend the mine life to produce 11.3 mtpa of coal for another 7 years until 2039 is a climate injustice.
- 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.
- Cumulative impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage, water sources, biodiversity, neighbours and Wollemi National Park have not been assessed to include surrounding large mines at Hunter Valley Operations, Warkworth –Mt Thorley Complex, United and Bulga operations.
- Peabody Energy 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.
- 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 Government should analyse and assess the long-term costs before any further approvals are given.