

WILPINJONG EXTENSION PROJECT

SUBMISSION OF SUPPORT

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I am a resident of Wollar and a member of the Wollar Progress Association. My family will be moving from Queensland to Wollar this year.

I fully support the Wilpinjong Extension Program. This has tremendous economic benefit for the surrounding district and provides employment opportunities.

Peabody Energy who operates Wilpinjong mine has been very generous supporters of the local community (ie fundraising and donations to local organisations).

Peabody Wilpinjong also makes significant contributions to NSW, via state royalties.

As a resident living in reasonably close proximity to the mine I do not experience issues with noise or other environmental factors with the mine's current operations.

I am fully aware that the proposed extension project will move closer to the residential area of Wollar village but do not see the negative outweighing the positive - simply because, in this current climate, jobs are paramount.

People need to live and the country needs to support industry which supports our country's economic balance.

I am aware that Peabody Energy is a leader in mine rehabilitation in Australia, as well as in its parent-base in the United States.

Peabody Energy Wilpinjong Mine has already returned mined ground to grazing, proving its commitment to rehabilitation and value adding their operations.

It is important that the ground be returned to as close as possible to its original state, pre-mining.

I have previously lived in small isolated localities, which have died due to lack of economic activity. This has ultimately been caused by better transport to travel to larger centres, improved communication, ageing population - relocating to larger centres for better facilities (ie aged care/medical) and the size of agricultural holdings increasing as well as ongoing improvements in farming equipment and practices requiring less personnel.

Due to the close proximity of the mine to small village of Wollar I believe this has made the mine an easy target for blaming the mine, for what realistically is a natural decline in this small remote community.

Peter Bonanno