



SAVE WOLLAR FROM WILPINJONG COAL MINE

Dear Department of Planning and Environment,

I object to the proposed expansion of Wilpinjong Coal mine to within 1.5km of the Wollar village. The social impacts of mining have been devastating to the community. It is not good land use planning to allow entire rural communities to be destroyed.

The proposal to continue producing poor quality coal until 2033 while releasing 20 million tonnes per year of additional greenhouse gases will increase the impacts of climate change, and is at odds with Australia's commitments under the Paris Accord.

The extension will disturb a further 800 ha of farmland, intercept ground water and surface water, destroy 354 ha of remnant bushland with habitat for 20 threatened species. The extension will also further encroach on the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve, a hotspot for declining woodland birds, including the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater. The biodiversity offsets will be inadequate.

The area is also regionally significant for Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Peabody Energy is in deep financial distress and cannot be relied upon to meet obligations. The job numbers and cost benefits analysis for the proposal are inflated.

The long-term cumulative social and environmental impacts of the Ulan, Moolarben and proposed Bylong mines must be considered.

Other Comments:

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Date: 27/2/16.