

“Reclaiming our Valley”

Hunter Communities Network

PO Box 14 Singleton 2330

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Wednesday 14 December 2016

Submission of Objection

Mandalong Mine
SSD 5144 – Modification 4

The Hunter Communities Network (the Network) is an alliance of community based groups and individuals impacted by the current coal industry and concerned about the ongoing rapid expansion of coal and coal seam gas exploration and mining in the region.

The Network objects to the proposal to modify the Mandalong Mine by extending longwall panels 22 & 23 in the Morans Creek and Tobins Creek catchment areas.

The impact of subsidence from mining under Tobins Creek has been predicted to cause the maintenance of an erosion ‘headcut’ within the creek channel. This has a high risk of expanding and should not be approved.

The impacts on alluvial aquifers that provide base flows to the ephemeral creeks has not been satisfactorily assessed for cumulative damage to the creek systems.

The predicted changes to flooding regimes and increase in ponding demonstrate long-term impacts that may have adverse ecological outcomes in the creek systems.

The issue of increased salinity in mine waste water production is a key issue that has not been adequately assessed or mitigated.

The Network considers that the current approval with the shortened longwall panels 22 to 24 has a lower environmental risk than the proposed modification.

The Statement of Environmental Effects does not adequately identify the impacts from current approved mining operations or the cumulative impacts, particularly on water sources, from the proposed extension of the longwall panels.

This area of the Central Coast has sensitive ecological values, and also supports a large number of productive small holdings and rural communities.

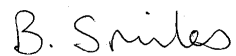
The ongoing encroachment of longwall mining under the Mandalong floodplain is unacceptable and should not be approved.

The NSW Government must develop a strategy to gradually wind back coal mining activities in the state if the target of zero emissions by 2050 is to be met. Ongoing modification of mining approvals to increase coal extraction from existing projects is poor policy.

The Network considers that the Central Coast economy and reliance on coal-fired power must start a transition process to protect the community from the shock of sudden closures.

The rejection of this Mandalong Modification 4 is a good place to start.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Smiles".

Bev Smiles
Convenor