

**Submission re: Tahmoor South Coal Project**  
**Katherine Thompson, Bundanoon**  
**5th March 2019**

It has been shown in the EIS that the Tahmoor North Coal Mine is having a significantly detrimental impact on the surrounding waterways, particularly around Tea Tree Hollow where a huge volume of polluted water currently flows, under licence. **I therefore submit that the proposed extension to Tahmoor South not be approved.**

I am extremely concerned about the waste water flowing from the Tahmoor North Coal Mine through Tea Tree Hollow and into the Bargo River. I believe it is unacceptable to allow this quantity and quality of flow to occur, even under licence. 5.3 ML/day of untreated water containing high levels of salts and heavy metals is unacceptable. At the very least the company should be required to treat this water by desalination or some other method until it is of acceptable quality for the river system.

The many times exceedances have occurred in the levels of heavy metals in the water shows the company is not willing or able to protect the environment from seriously dangerous pollutants.

In light of the frequent and long lasting droughts and climate change, it is more and more critical to protect our water quality and quantity in all environments. It is not acceptable to have saline water containing heavy metals flowing untreated into waterways on which communities and ecosystems depend.

Water quality must be maintained at high levels so that instream flora and fauna, as well as surrounding ecosystems, are allowed to remain healthy and flourish.

Not only is the volume and quality of water a concern, but also the works carried out to facilitate the dumping of the water into the environment. I witnessed the flowline from the northern mine down into Tea Tree Hollow being dug out with machinery in early 2018 and was appalled at the complete lack of erosion control measures implemented, until my complaint to Water NSW. Shortly afterwards there were 3 sets of hay bales installed, which were totally inadequate and washed out within days. Further complaints had no effect and the case was closed to me. Now there is a deep channel cutting into the hill and the water flows constantly, no doubt taking sediment with it. I believe this shows a blatant disregard for the environment on the part of the company and that they cannot be trusted to operate without significant polluting and damaging of the waterways in the area.

**I therefore submit that the proposed project of Tahmoor South Coal Mine not be approved.**