

# Attachment 1

## List of Speakers

### **PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING, WILPINJONG COAL MINE – MP 05\_0021 MOD 6 PROJECT**

Date: Thursday 13 November 2014, 9.00 am

Place: Club Mudgee, 99 Mortimer Street, Mudgee

#### **Speakers:**

Thursday 13 November 2014

9 am	Opening Statement from the Chair – Garry West
Registered Speakers:	1. Margaret Reid
	2. Michael Fetch
	3. Diane O'Mara
	4. Rusty (Ian) Russell
	5. Helen Barnes
	6. John Jakes
	7. Brett Ralson
	8. Wollar Progress Association Bev Smiles
	9. Bev Smiles
	10. Susan Schneider
	11. Rob Hudson
	12. Callum Slavin
	13. Bruce Hughes
	14. Denise Williams
	15. Daniel Lewis
	16. Nature Conservation Council Jenny Brown
	17. Colin Imrie
	18. Lyn Coombes

## Meeting Schedule Continued

19. Theresa Audretsch
20. Hunter Community Network Jolieske Lips (on behalf of Ted Finnie)
<del>21. Maaiangal Group</del> <del>Diana Stephenson</del>
22. Ann Finegan
<del>23. Andrew Palmer</del>

Comments providing during the public meeting and in written submissions:

- Speakers indicated Peabody (the proponent) had supported the region through funding of road maintenance and local community events in addition to leasing back the local store to the community;
- The mine adds to the diversity of land uses in the region which include viticulture, agriculture, tourism and mining;
- The mine ensures that families can remain together within the region;
- The operation of the mine supports and benefits ancillary businesses through companies servicing mining operations and through income generated by employees being returned to the local economy;
- The existing conditions of approval will not manage the impacts arising from the modification;
- There are significant impacts within the village and surrounds from dust;
- Spontaneous combustion odour is not being adequately managed and is present within the village of Wollar;
- The proponent has acknowledged publicly spontaneous combustion is an issue;
- Speakers emphasised a particular concern regarding the use of the Industrial Noise Policy (INP) within the rural environment. The community are of the view the INP has failed rural communities and noise limits do not reflect rural noise levels, particularly at night;
- The community requested the PAC require a review of the INP be conducted;
- The village of Wollar has an air of desolation following property acquisitions by the proponent resulting in empty properties;
- The social fabric of the community in Wollar has been torn apart following the approval of the mine in 2006;
- There has been a lack of social impact assessment undertaken for the modification;
- There have been roving noise monitors in the village however mine machinery appears to have been relocated which has resulted in lower noise readings than the community are usually subjected to;
- Peabody staff have been trespassing on private property and harass land owners into selling;
- Noise blasting impacts on livestock;
- The mine will not work with farmers to coordinate blast events with livestock operations;
- Properties are unable to be sold particularly noting potential purchasers have to access properties for sale via mine owned land;
- The proponent treats the community with contempt;
- The community of Wollar has declined by 90% since the mine was approved in 2006;
- The community have lost local services including the rural fire service, the church and the school only has 5 students so may go soon;

- Two of the three local rural fire service brigades have closed (Ulan and Wollar) due to property acquisitions and locals moving away. The members left at the remaining station (Cooks Gap) are ageing and not being replaced;
- The mobile veterinary and library services no longer visit Wollar due to the decline in resident numbers;
- Modification 6 is an increase of 25% from the original Part 3A approval which has not been considered by the Department;
- The Departments report fails to address the cumulative impact on Wollar including that fact that all coal rail movements pass through the village;
- Peabody own 70% of the properties in Wollar village resulting in higher noise and dust levels with properties being acquired to ensure the project approval limits are not breached;
- The Departments assessment report (Table 3, page 9) states the Department supports property acquisition which means they support the destruction of the rural community as more land owners move away;
- Remaining land owners cannot sell their properties and the mine is not required to acquire them;
- Speakers requested the PAC require a Social and Health impact study be conducted;
- Predictive modelling has failed and yet is still relied upon by the Department;
- Properties acquired by the proponent are being run down;
- MOD 6 will only provide employment for two years then the number of employees will be halved;
- Real time noise monitoring data is not being made available by the proponent;
- The expansion of CSG projects and mining in rural areas fails to adequately consider environmental impacts or an appropriate form of compensation for rural land holders;
- Multiple modification applications place an unreasonable burden on the community and provide no assurance for the future;
- Blasts are being held and felt at properties up to 15 km's from the mine;
- The Office of Water submission to the modification has not been addressed by the Department;
- The Departments report does not address greenhouse gas emissions generated as a result of burning coal;
- Increased rail movements results in increased travel times due to the rail crossing and length of coal trains;
- Emergency services are potential hindered by the coal train movements restricting ready access to the village;
- Speakers were concerned the region would become like the Lower Hunter;
- Government should consider revising its reliance on fossil fuels;
- Mining impacts on the character of the Bylong valley;
- Industries cannot co-exist as mining operations keep expanding;
- The Bylong valley has stud farms and therefore, like the Drayton South determination, the impact on horse health should be taken into consideration;
- The assessment has inadequately considered the social impact and does not satisfy the public's perception of the environmental risk associated with the project;
- Monitoring of the mining operations has been inadequate to date;
- The Department's Assessment Report fails to adequately address community submissions or concerns;
- Inadequate consideration has been provided in the assessment report on the social impact to the village of Wollar;

A number of documents were submitted at the public meeting and/or sent by email following the meeting.