

These large open cut mines are next to each other between Singleton and Jerry's Plains. Both projects were before a PAC in Singleton on 6 & 8 February respectively.

1. Poor PAC process
  - Having two public PAC events in Singleton in the one week shows complete disrespect for voluntary community resources and capacity to attend. The fact that commissioners doubled up to these events heightens the potential for rubber stamping.
  - This lack of consideration exposes the public PAC process for the cursory farce that it is.
2. Water impacts:
  - The cumulative impact of three larger final voids across the two projects has not been adequately assessed, including long term costs of management
  - The drawdown of base flows and alluvial groundwater associated with Wollombi Brook and the Hunter River will be increased. The cumulative loss of groundwater across the Hunter Region is quite noticeable and has not been included in the assessments.
3. Social & Health impacts:
  - Increased heights and volumes of overburden will worsen air pollution. Mobile phone reception is reducing and will challenge safety for both residents and travellers.
  - The Jerry's Plains air quality monitor has registered 5 exceedances so far in 2018 with existing operations. The nearby Warkworth monitor has registered 10 exceedances of national air quality standards since the beginning of the year
  - The EPA Dust Stop Program and environmental pollution licences are not managing air pollution from existing mines in the area.
  - Increased mine noise will impact on a least 31 additional properties in the area
  - The cumulative social impacts of loss of privately owned land and farming operations has not been assessed
4. Biodiversity impacts:
  - Impacts on biodiversity will be extreme and not able to be offset.
  - United Wambo will remove over 250 ha of critically endangered and irreplaceable bushland that provides habitat for many threatened species.
  - Three nationally endangered species already suffering cumulative loss of habitat due to Hunter mining expansion: Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot and Spotted-tailed Quoll. The cumulative loss of foraging and breeding sites has not been assessed.
  - The biodiversity offset package for United Wambo has not been completed and will not replace essential habitat features.
  - Remnant stands of threatened Hunter River Red Gums continue to lose sources of groundwater essential for drought resistance