

United Wambo Open Cut Coal Mine Project – R042/17

This submission is an objection

I live in the upper Hunter and have been involved in a research project investigating the impacts of mining on surface and groundwater systems in the Goulburn River & upper Hunter.

Water systems in the Hunter are under severe pressure due to the unsustainable allocation, extraction and interference to surface and groundwater resources. The current drought conditions highlight the importance of maintaining resilient water systems that can withstand the extremes of weather and climate change.

The cumulative impacts from the interference and extraction of groundwater systems from mining in the Hunter catchment, and in this case specifically Wollombi Brook, has not been adequately assessed.

Endangered GDES such as remnant stands of threatened Hunter River Red Gums are under direct threat from the depleted and highly modified groundwater system resulting from the expansion of coal mining.

There also needs to be a comprehensive assessment of the cumulative long term impacts and real cost of management of the proposed 3 final voids.

Any change in mine approval conditions should disallow any open cut voids remaining post mining. Mine voids pose a significant threat to future surface and groundwater quality - a disaster just waiting to happen

The best way to protect us from climate change is to safeguard our natural systems to ensure they remain intact functioning and resilient to climatic extremes. It is essential that our government sets a policy agenda that actively ensures the protection of our natural systems and the ecoservices they provide well into the future.

I would also like to lodge a complaint about the deficient PAC process running two public PAC events in Singleton in the one week, displaying a complete lack of respect for voluntary community resources and their capacity to attend.

Yours sincerely,

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