

I am objecting to the United Wambo Open-Cut Mine.

The whole process of the PAC is flawed. There were two PACs in Singleton last week. The Chairman of one PAC was also a member of the other. How can he possibly give serious consideration to both in the limited time available?

The PAC refused an invitation to see the damage caused by mining on our property, the message being they would see enough driving around themselves. They saw what the proponent wanted them to see, not the devastation we would have shown them.

The cumulative impacts on water have not been properly assessed. The loss of water is a huge problem; once it has gone it won't be coming back for a long, long time!

Air pollution will be increased. In the current dry conditions, with the prospect of escalation of climate change, the health of the population of the Hunter needs to be considered.

Excessive noise is unacceptable. The mining company should comply with the noise levels set.

The loss of communities must be considered. The people of the small villages are endangered, but this doesn't rate a mention. Warkworth no longer exists, Bulga is threatened.

The farmland lost to mining will never be returned. Prime agricultural land is being bought by mining companies, yet they are not farming them. In fact, the land purchased by Wambo (our neighbouring properties) since 1986 has become sadly neglected wasteland. There are subsidence holes throughout, fences have fallen down and are a danger for livestock and native animals. Where is the food for the future going to come from? The Hunter Valley is being destroyed by mining, without adequate consideration given to previous land use in the area.

Biodiversity needs to be considered. There are endangered species losing habitat, and areas of vegetation are threatened.

We do not need any more open-cut mines in the Hunter Valley. It is time to look to alternate forms of energy.