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## Wambo Mod 17

Imagine in an ideal world if the DPE & the PAC actually evaluated projects such as this on their merits. I find that concept very difficult to imagine.... be like pigs flying. *I BELIEVE* *APPLICATION* *WITHOUT DUE RESPECT TO COMMITTEE*  
Yes, the DPE have made their call, this PAC is a ridiculous charade, an exercise in futility but I, along with many others, some of whom are here today, make the effort to voice our concerns even though it falls on deaf ears. Ears that are tuned to the proponents of projects like this. Secret meetings with the DPE and the mining industry. Makes you wonder who is really running this state.

The facts surrounding the MOD 17 proposal speak for themselves. Wambo Coal have a long history of flouting consent conditions, ignoring court directions and treating the environment and local people with total disdain. Yet here they are, the *WAMBO* Keystone Cop of mining companies, the mining company from hell with their 17<sup>th</sup> modification in ~~15 years~~! How many projects can one company and the DPE juggle and have approved at any given time? It seems as if Wambo Coal and the DPE prove the impossible possible.

The case against this proposal has been stated today but without doubt will be ignored by the assessment system in place. Time and time again we have seen in the Hunter Valley the systematic destruction of our vital water systems, destruction of our environment and communities our health impacted and the very future of human life on this planet threatened by stoking cataclysmic climate change through the continued expansion of coal mining.

Yet these projects just get waved through by the DPE.

Commissioners, you will travel back home to Sydney today comfortable in the knowledge your lifestyle and health is not directly threatened by rampant coal mining in the Hunter Valley. Your Sydney property values are increasing, unlike the people of Bulga and other communities affected by coal mining.

So why would you care? You more than likely don't care at all. I think if you did care you would not be part of this pantomime.

Well we care..... We front up here time and time again because we care.

We care about injustice, the injustice that is the DPE and that is staring us in the face here today.

We care about a healthy environment.

We care about a safe future for our children and grandchildren. — *the very same applies to you + your families.*  
We care about our communities.

We care about a future with jobs that do not threaten our very existence.

Very importantly we care about holding people to account. The tide is turning, the public are waking up to the fact the assessment system in NSW is broken. It is a certainty and only a matter of time before the people who approve projects such as this, despite all the overwhelming hard evidence as to why it should not be approved continue to be approved. Those people will be held to account.

The Minister has delegated you to act on his behalf, you are the one who will bear the responsibility. If this project is in fact approved it is you that will be held responsible for the devastation caused.

You are the ones who will be held to account.