



## **Rix's Creek Extension Project -Objection**

Thank you Commissioners for the opportunity to raise DAMS HEGS concerns about the Rix's Creek continuation on World Environment Day. I acknowledge that we are meeting on the Wonaruah Country. My name is Wendy wales and I am speaking on behalf of Denman, Aberdeen, Muswellbrook and Scone Healthy Environment Group.

DAMS HEG is an Upper Hunter group of people committed to a healthy environment. Dust is a major health issue in our region.

There are so many reports and so much detail to address, however we are concerned with extracting simple overall implications to our community and environment, both locally and globally.

Mining either side of the highway for the next 20 years will continue to bust connectivity in the already narrowed section of the Great Eastern Ranges. This wild life corridor allows for species-plants, insects, animals and birds to migrate back and forth depending on conditions and is seen as a crucial element of climate change resilience. Connectivity is better than small patches of remnant vegetation, which are way better than nothing or starting from scratch. The loss of 96 Ha without approval and an unclear offset penalty do not restore that now destroyed ecosystem. The Hunter has so much biodiversity to lose by persisting with the high speed habitat destruction of mining coal. There are many places now that you can look across the valley floor and see mine adjacent to mine. A waste land.

The air quality this summer has been significantly poorer than for the last 9 years. This is also our hottest and driest 12 months. The dust and weather are linked, the hotter and drier, the more significant is the air pollution. Our last drought broke in 2008, since then we had a few dry spells but for the most part, good, dust suppressing conditions and the Spring of 2016 was ideal, rain followed by sun followed by rain. 2017 Spring, 2017/18 Summer were very hot and dry. And the air monitors went off continuously. Singleton did get good Autumn rains and so the country now looks in good condition, whereas it is desperately dry just up the valley in Muswellbrook. We point this out because climate change models predict we will have more extreme weather events, that our rainfall will come in fewer events and that it will get hotter. While there is monitoring and modelling of dust to inform mine operations, we are still experiencing particle exceedances. I have attached a Rix's Creek Lane print out showing extraordinary dust levels.

Confirming these observations Office of Environment and Heritage The DustWatchReport April 2018 "had the highest dust activity since 2009, the year of the Red Dawn dust storm. April 2018 was the hottest April on record. This is entirely relevant.

The effects of climate change are being felt now and will continue to intensify even if we were to stop polluting today. The Paris Agreement in

Article 5 1. states *“Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d), of the Convention, “*

Given the dire consequences of flooding, bushfires and droughts people in Australia and around the world are experiencing now and the impact of acidification, sea level rising and ocean warming on people and sea life we ask that you recognise that coal is a massive carbon sink. A very efficient way to keep CO<sub>2</sub> levels from increasing is to stop mining and burning coal rather than approving 20 more years of extraction.

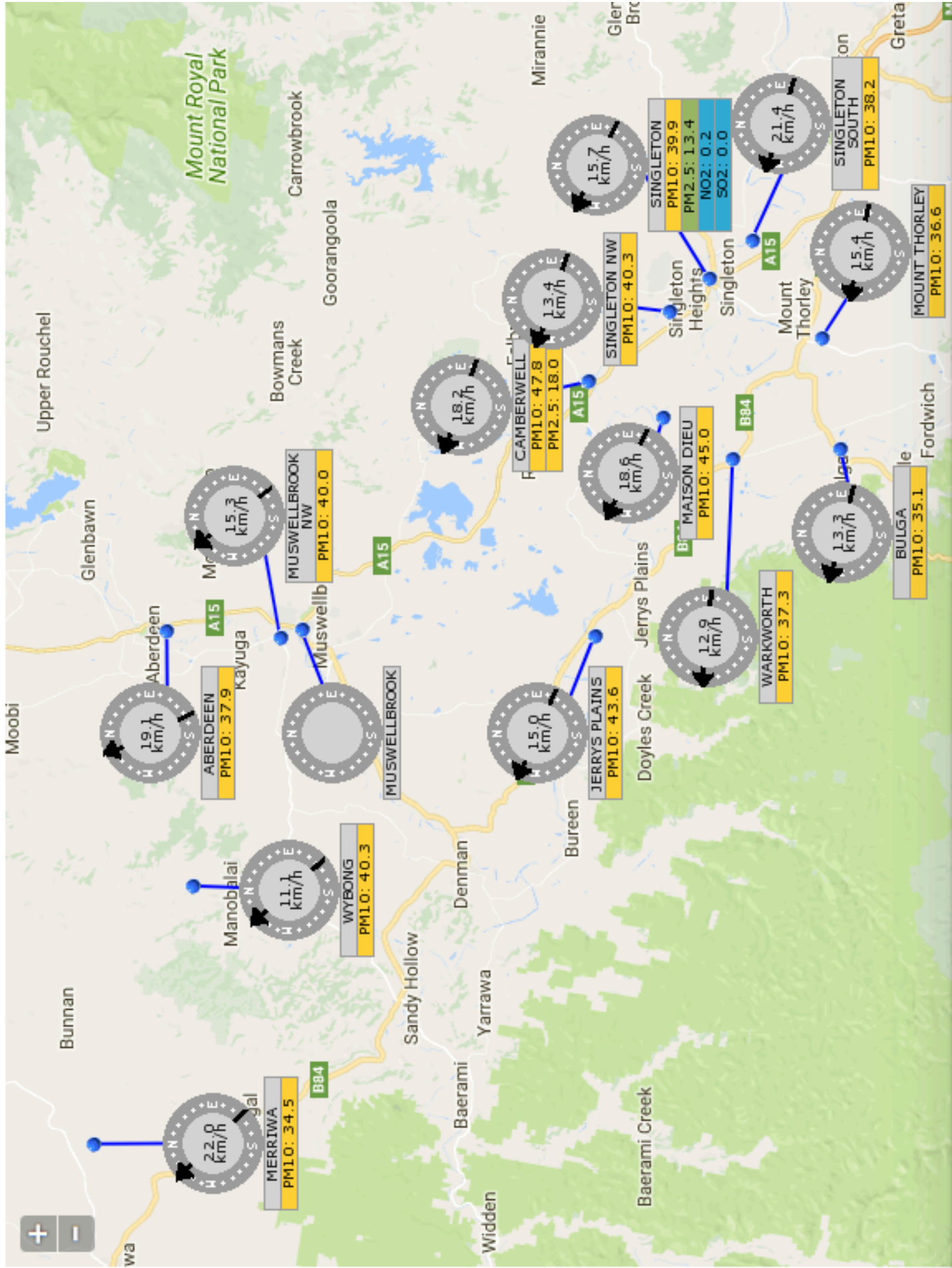
We would urge you to consider the IPCC 2014. *“Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems. Limiting climate change would require substantial and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions which, together with adaptation, can limit climate change risks.”*

Continued permanent destruction of the ground water systems and the “no idea “ what to do with 143 Ha toxic final void, 6 times saltier than seawater are other reasons we think it is a poor choice to systematically wreck this land relentlessly for the next 20 years. We urge you reject the expansion. We are sick from the attitude the Hunter is already wrecked, we know we still have so much here worth fighting for and would urge all with capacity to make the necessary changes to leave this coal in the ground.

Friday  
16 March 2018  
3 - 4 pm (AEST)  
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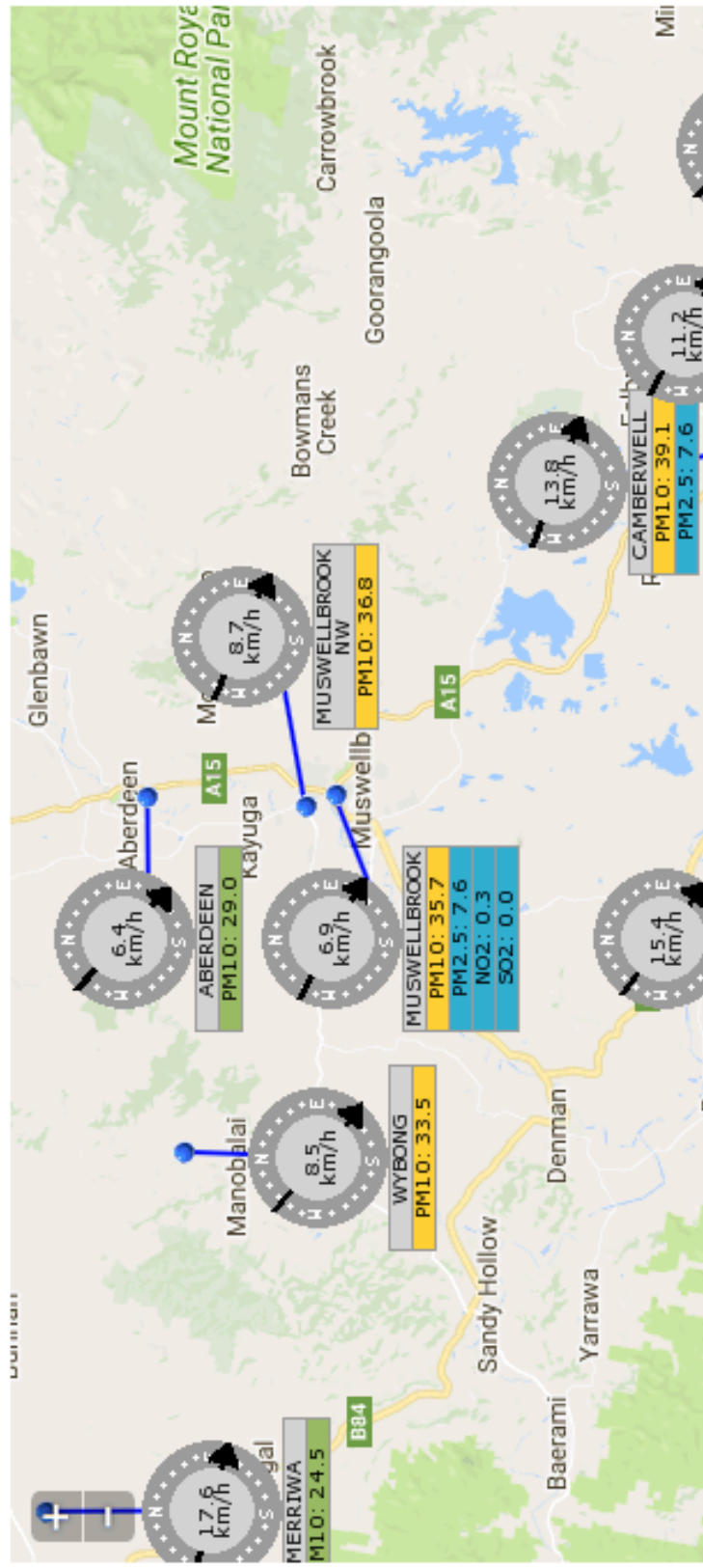
**Base Layer**

- Streets Map
- Physical Map
- Satellite Map
- Hybrid Map



Base Layer

- Streets Map
- Physical Map
- Satellite Map
- Hybrid Map



SINGLETON NW Hourly Averages

Rix Creek Lane

Date	PM10 [µg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	PM10 rolling avg	Wind speed [km/h]	Wind direction [Deg]
09/02/2018 12:00	64.0	30.3	11.2	299.3
09/02/2018 11:00	79.5		15.7	310.9
09/02/2018 10:00	75.6		16.1	307.0
09/02/2018 09:00	111.6		9.9	291.0
09/02/2018 08:00	35.9		5.8	282.9
09/02/2018 07:00	18.2		2.5	332.3
09/02/2018 06:00	21.8		0.6	211.8
09/02/2018 05:00	17.4		1.1	132.1
09/02/2018 04:00	16.1		2.3	91.1
09/02/2018 03:00	18.5		1.5	82.8
09/02/2018 02:00	14.5		3.8	132.6
09/02/2018 01:00	16.7		3.7	146.0