

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: To Mary O'Kane - Submission re objection to Rix Creek coal mine expansion
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 3:06:19 PM

Dear Mary O'Kane, Chair, Independent Planning Commission of NSW,

My objection to Rix's Creek South Continuation of Mining Project SSD 6300

As we have seen in the recent judgement for the Rocky Hill coal mine proposal, social impacts were the key reason for the NSW Government and the PAC to refuse the mine application.

The cumulative impacts were going to be considerable, and the air quality issues were a strong point - for the Rix Creek expansion to add to the woes of the Hunter communities through yet more pollution in the air they breath is indeed unconscionable.

The stress and anxiety our rural communities go through at the hands of the constant mining proposals/actual mine expansion on the wellbeing of people/families and the environments they need to live within is totally unacceptable in a human rights context.

As a community that you are well aware of, with the AGL gasfield proposal and now the Rocky Hill judgement, I can attest to the utter desolation many feel when dispossessed of their land and their places. As well as dividing communities, the time for new or expanded coal is well and truly over. With climate warming and the resulting emergency we are now all faced with, accepting and furthering the extraction and burning of this coal will add to the massive global issues we are all faced with. Please reject this mine. Wrong time, wrong place.

Other important points as outlined by the communities themselves -

Key points of objection:

1. Air pollution at Camberwell and North West Singleton regularly exceeds the national standards. The assessment of air pollution from Rix's Creek Mine has been identified as inadequate by the Department of Planning after the publication of their final assessment report stating the opposite.
2. An additional 72 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year is inexcusable in this time of climate emergency.
3. The cumulative impact of open cut mine disturbance over approx. 2,000 ha land has not been adequately assessed for water, final voids, biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage, air and noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions or for negative social and health impacts.
4. The impact of loss of key connective habitat for threatened species such as the Squirrel Glider has not been assessed. The biodiversity offset arrangements are incomplete and will not offset the loss of landscape habitat connectivity across the upper Hunter Valley floor.
5. Many assessments are incomplete eg for the second cut and cover tunnel under the New England Highway. It is inappropriate for these to be done after approval.

6. There is no consistency of policy application by the Department of Planning. The Rix's Creek mine expansion has not been assessed under the current Policy for Industrial Noise 2017 but has been assessed under the regulations of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

7. The people of Camberwell village have not been protected by property acquisition rights

8. It is inappropriate for the closest mine to Singleton to be assessed under achievable noise criteria. The proposed criteria are too high and will result in health impacts.

9. The cumulative health costs of mining in the Upper Hunter have not been included in the costs benefits analysis. The public benefit of the project does not outweigh the public costs.

10. The Upper Hunter is now over saturated with open cut coal mining impacts. No additional impacts can be tolerated. No more final voids should be approved.

With respect

Julie Lyford OAM

Chair Groundswell Gloucester