



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

Attention: Mary O'Kane, Chair, Independent Planning Commission of NSW

Dear Panel,

We would like to again object to another 20 years of coal mining either side of the NE Highway. Living in the Upper Hunter we see our health and lifestyle severely threatened by continued expansion of coal mining. The UH towns' poor air quality is now clearly visible to those not even checking it on the UHAQM website.

We, across Eastern Australia, are experiencing extreme drought now and while the intensity has a climate change signature so does its extensive range. Unfortunately the news on climate change is frequently that the models have underestimated the rate and scale of impact. Australian society needs to be joining with the rest of the world to find our way through the coming calamity, not nursing some precious, selfish notion that we can have it all (coal revenue & jobs) with out disastrous social and environmental consequences. Every coal mine around the world represents a small percentage of the whole, the 72 mT from Rix's Creek is cumulative impact and cannot be dismissed as trivial.

As an Upper Hunter resident of only 29 years I have come to sense the great tragedy of land degradation and climate change unfolding before our eyes. The Great Eastern Ranges corridor bottlenecks in the Upper Hunter and the offsets do not mitigate for this. This corridor provides opportunities for flora and fauna (eg squirrel glider) to migrate in response to climate change but another 2000Ha of mine and final voids block those migration possibilities.

The cumulative impacts are distressing on health, cultural, aesthetic and environmental grounds. 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. The people of Camberwell do not even have property acquisition rights but have been living with unhealthy air quality (today it is rated again as Poor) for years. Poor air quality is known to reduce life span and increase the incidence of respiratory diseases.

We are also speaking up for those who may not even realise the continued impact of mining coal, including the whole coal mining industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to register our objection
Wendy Wales
for Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group.

