

**Submission
No 11**

**INQUIRY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND
ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT (TERRITORIAL LIMITS)
BILL 2019**

Organisation: Wollar Progress Association

Date Received: 15 December 2019

WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

C/O- POST OFFICE

WOLLAR NSW 2850

wollarprogressassociation@gmail.com

Sunday 15 December 2019

Portfolio Committee No.7 – Planning and Environment
Parliament House
Macquarie St, Sydney, 2000

portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry:

Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Territorial Limits) Bill 2019

Wollar Progress Association welcomes the opportunity to lodge a strong objection to the proposed amendment to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 that removes the requirement to consider the environmental impacts of increased greenhouse gas emissions as a result of expanded coal mining operations in NSW.

Climate change is now the largest threat to our economic, social and environmental welfare. The Wollar community has already been severely socially disadvantaged by the expanding coal mining operations in our area.

We are now currently threatened by a large uncontrolled bushfire, heatwaves, dust storms and decreasing water supplies. The economic benefits to NSW of the large coal mining operations in our district are far outweighed by the cost of the increasingly extreme weather events caused by an overload of carbon in the atmosphere.

The NSW planning system must take responsibility for considering the cumulative impacts of additional greenhouse gas emissions generated by coal produced in the state.

We oppose the proposed Schedule 1 that will make it unlawful to impose any condition on a development for the purpose of mitigating impacts of that development occurring outside Australia. This amendment will apply retrospectively, thus proposing to overturn decisions made by the Independent Planning Commission.

This amendment makes a mockery of the ‘independence’ of decision-makers in regard to large thermal coal projects.

We also oppose Schedule 2 that overturns a provision in the Mining SEPP that has been in place since 2007. This requires consent authorities to consider the impact of downstream emissions. It is imperative that Clause 14 (2) remain in the Mining SEPP.

This proposed amendment bill is a retrograde step in the NSW planning system responding to political pressure from the mining industry. It proposes to remove the responsibility of NSW decision-makers to consider the real impacts and costs of climate change, already being experienced across the state.

The risks to health, well-being and financial security caused by increasingly extreme weather events cannot be further enhanced by this proposed change to planning law in NSW.

Wollar Progress Association recommends that the Portfolio Committee No.7 – Planning and Environment seeks to have this proposed legislation scrapped.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Hughes
President