

**WOLLAR PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**

**C/O- POST OFFICE**

**WOLLAR NSW 2850**

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Sunday 19 July 2015

Secretary  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Submission of support for Mining SEPP Amendment 2015

Dear Secretary,

Wollar Progress Association commends the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) for the proposal to remove Clause 12AA from Part 3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007* (the Mining SEPP).

This clause, that gives precedence to the consideration of the significance of the resource, over and above the consideration of social and environmental impacts of major mining developments in NSW, has caused the community to lose confidence in the state's planning system.

The proposed *State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Significance of Resource) 2015* (the proposed SEPP), that will remove clause 12AA, is a good first step in addressing the imbalance for rural communities and environmental assets threatened by mining expansion.

The Wollar community has been particularly impacted by the cumulative impact of the Wilpinjong Coal Mine. The systematic emptying out of the community caused by unpredicted impacts of noise, dust and spontaneous combustion has destroyed the social function of the community and associated rural industries.

The planning system needs to improve the assessment of cumulative impact and instate a fairer system of compensation for landholders left with stranded property and financial assets.

Wollar Progress Association trusts that the Department will adopt the proposed SEPP and will continue to reinstate a fair planning system through further changes to the Mining SEPP that considers all impacts and adopts a just system of compensation for affected land owners and communities in mining areas.

Yours sincerely

*B. Smiles*

Secretary