

## 10 REASONS WHY WALLABY SCRUB ROAD SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN

1. **Emergency services access:** if the road is destroyed for coal mining, it will put people at risk by increasing the time for emergency responses from the Rural Fire Service and the Ambulance Service.
2. **Used by 1100 drivers per day:** the road saves 20 minutes on a journey to Muswellbrook and beyond, and is a shortcut for other local trips. More than 2,500 people have signed a petition to keep the road open.
3. **An underground mine extension is viable:** Yancoal – the company buying the mine – is a specialist in underground mining. If the company chooses to do so, they could build their mine expansion underground, preserving the road.
4. **Health risk:** there is no way of meeting new pollution standards without reducing open cut mining. Mt Thorley Warkworth is already in the top 5 polluters in NSW.<sup>1</sup> Asking them to reduce particle pollution by rehabilitating their disused pits and conducting the rest of their mining underground is reasonable.
5. **Saving WSR will not cost jobs:** There would be continuation of jobs with the final rehabilitation of the major area of the site and jobs both in the underground operation and the finalisation of the open-cut.
6. **Road closure will cost local community \$20.3 million:** A study by The Australia Institute found that closing Wallaby Scrub Road will impose substantial costs on the community, estimated by Rio Tinto's economists at up to \$20.3M.
7. **Part of the Heritage-listed Great North Road:** Wallaby Scrub Road forms part of the Great North Road, which holds both State and Federal Heritage Status.
8. **Saving the road means saving Bulga:** A decision from Yancoal, supported by Council to **mine underground**, would be a win for all parties including the community, mine workers, and heritage and ecological values. It would put to rest the seven-year-long battle over the expansion of this mine, saving the villages of Bulga and Milbrodale from the advancing impacts of an open cut.
9. **Aboriginal artefacts and heritage:** preserving WSR would prevent loss of aboriginal artefacts and heritage.
10. **Saving critically endangered Warkworth Sands Woodland & endangered species:** Retaining WSR would also preserve some of the now critically endangered Warkworth Sands Woodland. It would also prevent the destruction of other endangered species in the proposed mine site area.

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<sup>1</sup> [Mt Thorley in top 5 NSW polluters](#)