Department of Planning and Infrastructure
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Submitted online at **http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5732**

Friday 28th June, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

This is a submission against the proposed expansion of Mangoola coal mine (06_0014 MOD6).

The proponents of this mine extension have sought to exaggerate the economic of importance of the project, while deliberately failing to adequately address the impacts of the project on other industries, on the public, and on the environment. This is common practise in these documents.

I submit that the project should be rejected for the following reasons.

**Global warming**

- The project would result in the release of approximately 232 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent over ten years, according to Appendix D of the Environmental Assessment (EA).
- The proponent, as usual, seeks to downplay the significance of this. However, it is a major impact of the project. This project would be equivalent to a 4.2% increase in Australia's domestic greenhouse pollution[1].
- The impacts of global warming are already claiming the lives of an estimate 300,000 people every year, according to the Global Humanitarian Forum in Geneva.
- The Commonwealth Government's Climate Commission recently found that 80% of fossil fuel reserves must remain in the ground, unburned, or dangerous climate change will be unstoppable[2].

**Other issues**

- Discharge to the Hunter River was specifically not permitted in the original application, and must not be permitted now either. Discharges of saline water into the Hunter River are resulting in an increase in the back ground levels of salinity in the river. This is detrimental to the river environment and downstream agriculture.
- Too much water is already being used in by mining in the Muswellbrook Shire.
- Present mining operations are concentrated in this area of the Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook Shire and increasing operations put additional stress on public infrastructure that is presently not coping with current levels of mining.
- A concentration of mines in this area of the Upper Hunter is resulting in an unacceptable reduction in air quality for residents of the Upper Hunter. Increasing mine output increase mine sourced air pollution and decrease air quality for Upper Hunter residents.
- The mine will add to the cumulative impacts of mine sourced air pollution for the whole Hunter Valley.
- Precautionary principle regarding health effects short and long term should be applied; there is

1 According to the December 2012 Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (Commonwealth Dept of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research, and Tertiary Education), Australia's annual emissions (excluding LULUCF) were 551.9 Mtpa, compared to approx 232 Mt over the life of the proposed Mangoola modification extension.

2 *The Critical Decade 2013: Climate change science, risks and response* by Professor Will Steffen and Professor Lesley Hughes (Climate Commission, Dept of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research, and Tertiary Education, 2013).

insufficient data to make a sensible determination regarding the health effects upon the residents of the regions that are already exposed to high density coal mining, particularly open cut.

- Expansion of operations will increase noise produced by the mine. Current disputes between mine affected residents and Mangoola Coal are unresolved.
- An increase in production will result in an increase in rail traffic and rail noise.
- Mining companies already own more than 50% of rateable land in the Muswellbrook Shire. The Upper Hunter is saturated with coal mines and further expansion should be halted.
- Lack of affordable housing, extra pressure for housing is forcing young home buyers on normal incomes out of the area.
- Increase in mining employment will put pressure on the supply and demand for community services and facilities that are presently strained.
- The initial application and this modification does not address the issue of leaving rehabilitation and the impact of the final void.
- Proximity to the town of Denman. Denman does not have an air quality monitor that is part of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Network. Until Denman is part of the air quality network expansion of this mine and establishment of new mines near Denman Should be halted.
- Threat to the diversity of the regional economy as mining drives out other sustainable industries and the long term employment they provide.
- Industrialisation of the region
- Irreversibility of the damage caused
- Mining in the Upper Hunter has a bad history of leaving land in a poor state

I acknowledge that my submission, and other submissions against this project, will be ignored, and the project will be approved no matter what we say. So thank you for wasting my time.

Sincerely,

Steve Phillips
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