

I am making a personal submission

Name: Mr Geoffrey Miell
Organisation: [blank] **Position in organisation:** [blank]
Email: [REDACTED]
Address 1: [REDACTED]
Address 2: [blank]
Suburb: LITHGOW
State: NSW
Postcode: 2790
Political Donations: No
Agree to Terms/Cond.: Yes

Your view on the application: **I object to it**

Message: To Whom It May Concern,

The Paris Climate Agreement, although flawed, locks-in the end of coal. Such a geopolitical agreement could not have been reached in the absence of the growing civil society and market signals that coal's demise was already happening.

The proposed Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project fosters the continued long-term operation of Mt Piper Power Station (MPPS), facilitating ongoing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the combustion of carbon-based substances (primarily coal but also the intended waste products), that contribute to escalating the risk of civilisation collapse within this century.

On 17 November 2018, Professor H. J. Schellnhuber CBE, then Director Emeritus of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and Member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change, presented his Aurelio Peccei Lecture in Rome, Italy, titled "Climate, Complexity, Conversion".¹ At the beginning of his lecture, Professor Schellnhuber refers to a co-authored scientific paper titled *Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene*² that he describes as a "**landmark paper**" and a "**game-changer**". From about time interval **0:23:23 through to 0:26:45**, Professor Schellnhuber outlines two (2) Earth climate state possibilities that **humanity could experience within this century**, dependent upon the global human-induced GHG emission trajectory path that ensues within this decade (i.e. the 2020s):

- A. A harsher climate state paradigm may be like in the **Mid-Pliocene era**, that occurred **3–4 million years ago**, where atmospheric CO₂ levels were in the range of **400–450 parts per million (ppm)**, mean global temperatures were **+2.0–3.0°C** (above pre-industrial age), and sea levels were **+10–22m higher** than today (stabilised over centuries), but

¹ **Keynote Debate Can the Climate Emergency Action Plan lead to Collective Action_ (50 Years CoR)**, from about time interval 0:05:31 through to 0:40:20, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK2XLeGmHtE>

² **Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene**, by Will Steffen, Johan Rockström, Katherine Richardson, Timothy M. Lenton, Carl Folke, Diana Liverman, Colin P. Summerhayes, Anthony D. Barnosky, Sarah E. Cornell, Michel Crucifix, Jonathan F. Donges, Ingo Fetzer, Steven J. Lade, Marten Scheffer, Richarda Winkelmann, and Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), vol. 115, no. 33, pp8252-8259, online on 6 Aug 2018, <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1810141115>

requires humanity to rapidly reduce human-induced GHG emissions now (i.e. 50% reduction by 2030, and to zero by 2050).³

- B. The alternative highly undesirable climate state may be like in the **Mid-Miocene era**, that occurred **15–17 million years ago**, atmospheric CO₂ levels were **300–500 ppm**, mean global temperatures were **+4.0–5.0°C**, and sea levels were **+10–60m higher** (stabilised over centuries), **which is likely with our current global GHG emissions trajectory**.

Humanity and human civilisation might adapt to Option A – Mid-Pliocene climate like conditions, but human civilisation is highly likely to collapse in Option B – Mid-Miocene climate like conditions, with a global population likely declining below one billion people before 2100.⁴

A 1°C global mean temperature rise (above pre-industrial age) means the emergence of dangerous climatic conditions; 2°C means the onset of “extremely dangerous” climatic conditions; 3°C means “outright chaos”; and 4°C means “incompatible with organised global community”.⁵

Scientific evidence unequivocally links human-caused climate change to the increasing risk of frequent and severe bushfires in the Australian landscape. That same science tells us these extreme events will only grow worse in the future without genuine concerted action to rapidly reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases.⁶ Humanity must stop burning all carbon-based substances as soon as possible. MPPS must cease operations long before reaching its intended operational design life, rendering any other new associated support projects, like the Energy Recovery Project, unviable.

The Mt Piper Energy Recovery Project proposal must be denied; otherwise it contributes to an immediate existential threat to human civilisation and conflicts with Australia’s commitments given in the Paris Climate Agreement to make substantial reductions to our carbon-based emissions.

You may publish my name. Please don’t publish my contact details.

Please note I do not have my own email address, so I’m unable to provide a submission via the portal you provide.

Thanks for the opportunity for me to present my views on this critical issue.

Geoff Miell

Lodged: 2020 Feb 28

Planner: Sally Munk (02) 9274 6431

NSW Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment contact:

Address: 4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
Post: Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124.
Tel: 1300 305 695
Email: majorprojectssupport@planning.nsw.gov.au

³ **Existential climate-related security risk: A scenario approach**, by David Spratt and Ian Dunlop, published by Breakthrough – National Centre for Climate Restoration, May 2019 (updated 11 June 2019), <https://www.breakthroughonline.org.au/papers>

⁴ <http://www.climatecoded.org/2019/08/at-4c-of-warming-would-billion-people.html>

⁵ *Ibid.* 1, presentation by Ian T. Dunlop from about time interval 1:32:55 through to 1:42:20

⁶ <https://australianbushfiresandclimatechange.com/>