

# HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS CONTINUATION PROJECT

I am totally opposed to this project being allowed to proceed.

## Background

Any rational whole of impact assessment for this proposal would see it as grossly inappropriate at a time when so many environmental issues are all too apparent. If the current planning process embodies limitations in its ability to deal with this reality and decides to grant approval, it will do a dramatic disservice to the local community, the wider Australian community, and to our standing in a world that is desperately trying to deal with the environmental impact of climate change.

In my view the NSW Government has a responsibility to act in this matter and do whatever is necessary to put an end to this and other similar projects that simply can no longer be justified. This project and its influence on our future generations is no longer just a NSW State issue, it has become a world issue and should be treated as such.

Our community should be able to rely on our elected representatives to act responsibly on our behalf and not leave it up to citizens like me and many others to fight endless battles prevent irreversible impacts on our natural environment. It should be obvious that we simply cannot keep pumping more and more carbon into our environment

To me this project represents the very worst of what the commercial world can offer. There are so many valid reasons why these two projects should not get approval –they are well documented by others and are summarised below

## Summary of Adverse Impacts

### GHG Emissions

This project is seeking approval to double its own direct GHG emissions at a time when the NSW Government's policy is to reduce GHG emissions by 70% by 2035.

What's more, this Project seeks approval to more than *triple* Scope 1 fugitive methane emissions from 182,625t CO<sub>2</sub>-e projected for 2023 to 590,284 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2030. The Global Methane Pledge (to which Australia is a signatory) requires at least a 30% cut in methane emissions globally by 2030.

### Air pollution

The expansion of activities would inevitably result in degraded air quality, with significant and prolonged air pollution in the form of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions

### Aboriginal heritage

Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values would be impacted by this Project, and the Wonnarua People are objecting to any expansion of open cut coal mining.

### Biodiversity

The Australian Government's 'Australia state of the environment 2021' (July 2022) found that *"overall the state and trend of the environment of Australia are poor and deteriorating as a result of increasing pressures from climate change, habitat loss, invasive species, pollution and resource extraction."*

### Irreparable damage to our natural environment

Open cut mining is leaving an incredible scar on our farmland and it is of such proportions that it we will have to live with it forever – an everlasting blight on the landscape.

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