

Matthew Sprott

From: Steve Phillips <sjphillips@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Friday, 6 March 2015 3:21 PM
To: Matthew Sprott
Subject: Submission Details for company Lock The Gate Alliance (org_object)

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Categories: Mount Owen Submission

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Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

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Content:

The proposed project requires the destruction of 485 hectares of bushland ecosystem in an area that has already lost too much habitat to coal mining. This includes 136 hectares of EEC and habitat for 29 fauna species listed under the NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act. If the project goes ahead it will have unacceptable impacts on the Spotted-tail Quoll and the Swift Parrot, both listed as endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Biodiversity offsetting for Hunter coal mine projects has been an abject failure, and should not be used to justify this project.

The project would also carry unacceptable impacts on local area residents, who are already subject to PM10 particle pollution in excess of national standards. These residents are entitled to cleaner air, and certainly should not be subjected to an even further deterioration in air quality, which would directly impact on their health and life expectancy. A recent review of the health impacts of the Hunter coal industry found that the costs of the industry are already in excess of its benefits to NSW, and recommended no further mining approvals in the region. [Climate and Health Alliance, 2015: Coal and health in the Hunter].

Coal mining in the Mt Owen area has already impacted profoundly on the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater, and any further mining expansions would exacerbate this.

The proposal to leave three vast mine voids in the area is typical of the exploitative attitude towards the Hunter, its people and environment, that we are used to seeing from mining companies. Just for once, it would be nice if an approval authority made these companies fill their holes in. After all, they can afford it.

The PAC will be under pressure to approve the project, as usual, due to the alleged benefits to NSW through employment and income. We submit that these benefits are grossly exaggerated at best, and where they do exist, are very much short term outcomes that do not justify any further expansions of coal mining in the region. That thermal coal is a dying industry is a fact now acknowledged by many in the global investment community, including the likes of Goldman Sachs. The current 'slump' in global coal prices is seen by many as actually the beginning of the terminal decline of an outmoded fuel source that the world is leaving behind.

The NSW government cannot keep allowing mining companies to rip up every last area in our valley as they scramble to prop up a dying industry. The Mt Owen expansion should not be approved.

IP Address: economydigital.com - 199.19.94.135

Submission: Online Submission from company Lock The Gate Alliance (org_object)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_activity&id=116680

Submission for Job: #5850 Mount Owen Continued Operations Project
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_job&id=5850

Site: #1182 Mount Owen Mining Complex
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/?action=view_site&id=1182

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