

Submission opposing Hunter Valley Operations North and South Continuation

I oppose this project for the following reasons.

1 Greenhouse gas emissions

This is the single largest new coal project proposed in NSW since the Paris Agreement. It would be responsible for 1.2 billion tonnes of total carbon emissions, if approved. It proposes extending the life of HVO north by 25 years and HVO south by 15 years. We know that to contain global warming to agreed targets there can be no new or expanded thermal coal mines.

The project seeks approval for huge increases in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, eg to more than *triple* Scope 1 fugitive methane emissions from 182,625t CO₂-e projected for 2023 to 590,284 t CO₂-e in 2030. Australia is a signatory to the Global Methane Pledge which requires at least a 30% cut in methane emissions globally by 2030. How can we meet our obligation if the HVO expansion is approved?

2 Air pollution

Expansion of the mine would result in increased PM10 and PM2.5 emissions. Associate Professor Gabriel Da Silva - expert on the chemistry of air pollution at The University of Melbourne – has stated that PM2.5 is more harmful than previously thought and the safe limit of exposure is not known.

3 Aboriginal cultural heritage

Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People object to any expansion of open cut coal mining at HVO because of impacts on cultural heritage values. Their application for protection of heritage is still in process.

4 Glencore's fitness to hold a mining lease in NSW

Glencore owns 49% of this project. Both the NSW Mining Act and the Commonwealth Environment Protection And Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 require a mining title holder to be 'fit and proper'. In the UK and USA Glencore has been found guilty of bribery. In Australia Glencore is facing investigation by ASIC for claims about cutting carbon emissions.

Elisabeth Dark

27 February 2023