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Joe Fittell Contact Planner Department of Planning and Environment Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124

Monday 27 February 2023

Dear Mr Fittell

Submission of Objection: Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project (SSD-11826681 & SSD – 11826621)

I strongly object to the HVO Continuation Project because the environmental assessment is inadequate and does not provide the necessary mitigation measures for health impacts, long term water impacts and permanent toxic legacy in the landscape with two final voids or the cumulative destruction of threatened species habitat in the Hunter Region.

The proposal to extract a further 400 Mt coal until 2050 is totally unacceptable at this time of increasing social disruption through extreme weather events. Continuing to fuel climate change is inexcusable and has no valid justification.

Any perceived public benefit will be discounted through the growing social and economic costs of climate change. These have not been factored into the economic assessment for the project.

The assessment has not considered the likelihood of the 1500 workers being unable to get to the mine as increased weather extremes damage local and regional roads and other infrastructure. Mining operations will also be impacted by increased severity of storms, localised flooding, bushfires and prolonged intensive droughts.

The NSW Government cannot continue to approve coal mining expansion into the mid-century. There is no valid justification for this unacceptable continuation of carbon emissions.

The increase in Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions from the project are damaging, not to mention the overall 1.2 billion tonnes of new CO_2 -e.

This project cannot be approved

Yours sincerely

B. Smiles

Bev Smiles