



Objection to: Hunter Valley Operations North coal mine
24th Feb, 2023

I am writing on behalf of the Denman Aberdeen Muswellbrook Scone Healthy Environment Group Inc. We have been raising the most serious issue in human history, with you, the Department of Planning, for over a decade.

We are disbelieving and horrified to find that international mining companies and our successive enabling governments, via your department, have the inhumanity to roll out more mining proposals, at increasing tonnages and into the middle of the century, as is the case with this confusing amalgamation that is called Hunter Valley Operations (unincorporated) and it's North and South pits. This is in flagrant disregard of the Paris Agreement. We are appalled by the contribution to climate change these tonnages represent.

The NSW Department of Health recommended against the Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project. Their recommendation was made because Upper Hunter residents are already exposed to unhealthy levels of PM10 and NSW Department of Health considers it unacceptable to allow further increases via new or expanded mines when consequent air pollution may further impact the health of residents.

We know Australian biodiversity is unique, evolving separately over the last 45million years . Tragically it has become much more vulnerable now that we are experiencing frequent extreme weather events and high intensity bushfires. The devastation and destruction of habitat of another increment, 397 ha, of native vegetation is a further gross violation of our duty of stewardship to the natural environment. While it is delightful we are still discovering new species, eg the Hunter Valley legless lizard, *Delma vescolineata*. How can it be we would so wantonly destroy its habitat and put it's very existence at greater risk? Another biodiversity threat comes from the multitude of invasive species, weeds and feral animals. These growing problems in the Upper Hunter are exacerbated by the large scale disruption caused by mining.

Final voids are the equivalent of sweeping problems under the carpet. If it is uneconomic to properly fill them in how could the Department of Planning approve them being left as toxic pits for future generations to live with?

We have heard that Glencore itself is not regarded as fit and proper company to hold a mining lease.

We ask the Department of Planning to study Dr Penny Sackett's *Expert Report Regarding the Greenhouse Gas and Climate Implications of the proposed Mt Pleasant Optimisation Project (SSD-10418)*, (attached). We ask the DPIE to refer to this report in rejecting these applications. These companies

need an order to reflect on their roles in exacerbating climate change, rethink their directions and emerge with positive proactive industries that can quickly improve the biosphere's shaky prospects.

Wendy Wales, for DAMS HEG Inc

Attached: Dr Penny Sackett's Submission on Climate Change to Mt Pleasant Optimisation IPC 2022