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Monday 27 February 2023

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

Dear Mr Fittell

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

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

CWEC strongly objects to the proposal to cause an additional 1.2 billion tonnes of CO₂-e to be emitted up until 2050. This is at odds with all targets set by the NSW and Federal Governments to reduce carbon emissions and limit global warming.

Central West NSW has suffered severe social and economic disruption and deaths of citizens due to catastrophic flood events earlier this year. The unprecedented storm surge that inundated the village of Eugowra is just a taste of things to come if carbon emissions continue to increase.

There is no level of public benefit from expanded coal mining operations that can offset the trauma, dislocation and loss being experienced by communities all over the globe from increasing extreme weather crises.

The cost of repairing damaged infrastructure and disruption to many industries has a critical impact on the economy. This must be factored into consideration of the merit of the proposed project.

The Central West is the first area where the NSW Government has focused on encouraging large scale renewable energy projects to be established through the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.

There is no justification for the NSW Government to continue to approve coal mine expansion and extension. The way forward is to encourage investment in a range of different scale renewable energy projects.

Climate change is a threat to all communities and all industries and cannot be ignored.

CWEC recommends that the project be rejected on the grounds of no clear justification, no clear evidence of public benefit and the requirement for responsible Government decision-making under ESD principles.

Yours sincerely

Nick King
President