

# Subject: Submission of Objection to Mt Arthur Coal MOD 2 (Pathway to 2030)

10/11/2023

Joe Fittell  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
4 Parramatta Square  
12 Darcy Street  
Parramatta NSW 2150  
Phone: 4908 6896

Dear Mr. Fittell,

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed modification (MOD 2) for the Mt Arthur coal mine, outlining a pathway to extend its operations to 2030. As a concerned member of the community, I believe that this modification poses significant environmental risks, particularly in relation to climate change, air quality, and the potential exacerbation of extreme weather events such as the devastating 2019-2020 bushfires that impacted the local community of Muswellbrook, NSW.

## Climate Change Concerns:

### 1. Carbon Emissions

The NSW EPA 2021 Statement of the Environment report underscores the pressing need to address carbon emissions and their impact on climate change (NSW EPA, 2021). The continued operation of the Mt Arthur coal mine contributes to carbon emissions, exacerbating climate change.

#### a. Scope 1 Emissions Calculation

Considering the proposed modification, it is imperative to conduct a thorough evaluation of Scope 1 emissions, encompassing direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the Mt Arthur coal mine. According to available data, the calculated Scope 1 total stands at 2.52 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

## b. Scope 2 Emissions Calculation

Additionally, the assessment of Scope 2 emissions, which includes indirect emissions associated with the generation of purchased electricity consumed by the mine, reveals a total of 0.36 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

## c. Scope 3 Emissions Calculation

The evaluation of Scope 3 emissions, covering indirect emissions from activities across the value chain, indicates a total of 190.26 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

## 2. Extreme Weather Events, Drought, and Royal Commission Recommendations:

It is crucial to acknowledge the local impact of climate change, particularly evidenced by the devastating 2019-2020 bushfires that ravaged the community of Muswellbrook, where the Mt Arthur coal mine is situated. The Royal Commission into the 2019-2020 Bushfires emphasized the urgent need to address carbon emissions and combat climate change. The recommendations of the Royal Commission underscore the imperative of mitigating climate change impacts, including reconsidering projects that contribute to carbon emissions and the intensification of extreme weather events. The drought that preceded the fires further highlights the vulnerability of the region to changing climate conditions.

## 3. Human Toll of the 2019-2020 Bushfires

It is with great sorrow that we acknowledge the profound impact of the 2019-2020 bushfires, which claimed 483 Australian lives (Royal Commission, 2021). This tragic loss emphasizes the urgent need to address the factors contributing to such extreme events, including the potential exacerbation by projects like the Mt Arthur coal mine extension.

## Air Quality Impacts:

1. **Particulate Matter and Respiratory Health:** The NSW EPA 2021 report emphasizes the importance of assessing and mitigating air quality impacts on community health (NSW EPA, 2021). Prolonged mining activities, as proposed in the modification, may lead to increased levels of particulate matter in the air, adversely affecting respiratory health in nearby communities.

## 2. IPCC's Stance on Air Quality:

The IPCC Summary for Policy Makers further emphasizes the need to address air quality concerns associated with fossil fuel projects (IPCC, 2021). The potential health risks posed by

poor air quality resulting from coal mining operations align with global recommendations against new or extended fossil fuel projects.

## Conclusions

In light of these climate change and air quality concerns, I urge you to conduct a thorough evaluation of the environmental impacts associated with the proposed modification of the Mt Arthur coal mine. It is essential to prioritize the health and well-being of the community and to align the decision-making process with global initiatives, as outlined by the NSW EPA, the IPCC, and the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the 2019-2020 Bushfires.

I appreciate your attention to these specific environmental considerations, including the local impact of the 2019-2020 bushfires and the preceding drought, and trust that you will carefully weigh the climate change and air quality impacts, including the provided emissions calculations, before making any decisions regarding the modification of the Mt Arthur coal mine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Jayden Pan  
Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management

### References:

NSW EPA. (2021). \*Statement of the Environment 2021\*. Retrieved from <https://www.soe.epa.nsw.gov.au/>

IPCC. (2021). \*Summary for Policy Makers\*. Retrieved from [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM.pdf)

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements. (2021). \*Final Report\*. Retrieved from <https://www.royalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-12/Royal%20Commission%20into%20National%20Natural%20Disaster%20Arrangements%20-%20Report%20%20%5Baccessible%5D.pdf>