



Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

202 High St
East Maitland NSW 2323
13.5.2025

Modification 5 Bloomfield Colliery Continuation Project **- Object**

Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.(HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for well over thirty years on the issues of biodiversity, environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, and climate change.

The group has been represented on NSW Government committees including the Hunter River Management Committee, Mount Owen Mine Flora and Fauna Management Committee, Lower Hunter Regional Strategy Working Group, Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee, the Lostock to Glennies Creek Pipeline Proposal as well as presently on the Hunter Environment Advisory Group.

HEL has commented on and objected to many of the existing and further modifications to coal mines in the Hunter for the time we have existed, most of these objections relating to environmental factors.

Factors such as biodiversity impacts, loss of habitat and remnant vegetation, impacts on loss and quality of groundwater, air quality impacts on communities in the Hunter, and noise impacts on adjacent communities – have all figured in our objections, and do so today in our objection to this development modification at Bloomfield. supporting biodiversity connections across the Four Mile creek (Bloomfield) site.

The biodiversity significance of the Buttai/Black Hill area is understated. The Hunter Regional Plan 2041 highlights the need for conserving high environmental value lands, and supporting biodiversity connections across the Four Mile creek (Bloomfield) site.

Project was determined to be a controlled action by DCCEEW (Dept of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water) DCCEEW also requested further assessment for Koala and Pied Bat; DCCEEW required additional assessment of Regent Honeyeater, Gang-gang Cockatoo, Swift Parrot, Greater Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, New Holland Mouse and Spot-tailed Quoll;

The additional assessment concluded that the Swift Parrot will require offsets, this is crucial to ongoing viability of their populations.

One of the key flaws with the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report is the dismissal of impacts on the critically endangered Regent Honeyeater, according to Mick Roderick, Regent Honeyeater Recovery Advisor: "The fact that the Bloomfield site has not been included in the Regent Honeyeater important habitat mapping is irrelevant because no targeted searches for Regent Honeyeaters have been made when they are likely to have been breeding (i.e. when local ironbarks [*E. siderophloia* and *E. fibrosa*] have been flowering).

Aside from being an important breeding region, the Lower Hunter is almost unique because it also offers ample winter-feeding resources in the form of Spotted Gums. In 2024 when the Lower Hunter Spotted Gums flowered, there were >30 Regent Honeyeaters found; all of them within or nearby to Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest (M. Roderick pers. comm.).

Any Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest (LHSGIF) should therefore be viewed as vitally important to Regent Honeyeaters because it is one of the few breeding/winter habitats remaining for a species with an extremely restricted contemporary range."

Further: "We maintain that there should be NO FURTHER LOSS of any contemporary breeding and wintering habitat for species on the brink of extinction (i.e. LHSGIF) and that the treatment of Regent Honeyeaters within the biodiversity assessment are flawed."

As we noted on 20th March 2018 in our submission on the Life of Mine Extension Mod 4 for Bloomfield, as well as in October 2024 with the Continuation extension, HEL has also recently, in the last fifteen years or so, objected to coal developments or expanding of modifications or mining timeframes on the grounds of increasing Green House Gas Emissions (GHGE) into the atmosphere both here in Australia in the case of fugitive emissions or overseas where the coal is burnt to achieve power generation.

As we have reiterated, any increase in Australia's GHGE whether occurring here or overseas over the period of mining will threaten Australia's ability to meet the Paris Agreement, as well as the worsening effects of climate chaos on communities around the globe.

The ability for Green House Emissions to heat the ocean temperatures to such a high degree must be a cause for alarm in many parts of the world, not only for devastating weather events but also for the life of our very own Great Barrier Reef. The risks to our Barrier Reef grow exponentially with every coal mine extension.

Here locally in Maitland we find that the report into the effects of this development, does not take into account the Local Environmental Sustainability Strategies for Maitland and Cessnock Councils which support community 20year strategic plans. This is an important point.

As we noted in October 2024, that on further reading, we find that local communities have highlighted a number of objectives associated with:-

- . Living sustainably by looking after and enjoying areas of bushland, protecting native plants and animals, and improving the quality of waterways.
- . Living sustainability with urban development options which address climate change, recognise the value of open space and recreation, and which support water security and biodiversity.
- . A sustainable and healthy environment.

As part of councils objective to deliver functional biodiversity corridors and protect important natural spaces extensive rezoning around the mines current buffer area should occur, recategorizing from zones C3/RU2 to C2 so as to further protect local biodiversity corridors in Maitland and Cessnock as part of the projects overall offset plan.
<https://www.maitland.nsw.gov.au/services/environment-sustainability/wildlife>

We feel that the Minister should implement a controlled action that the project should rezone significant areas around the mine so as to support protection of local strategic objectives to manage, protect and create biodiversity corridors.

Unless that happens, we suggest that the Local, State and Federal objectives of biodiversity have been ignored by the relevant Departments responsible for their overall implementaion

Yours in trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Davis', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Jan Davis
President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.