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Wednesday 24 September 2025

Jack Turner
Contact Planner
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Turner

Objection

Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project North & South
(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 add 803 million tonnes of lifecycle greenhouse gas pollution to the atmosphere between now and 2045. This equates to 7 times the total annual emissions from all sources in New South Wales. The expansion will double methane emissions compared to the existing mine (as at FY24) and they will remain at elevated levels until 2042.

The direct emissions from the project, caused by releasing methane from the coal seam and from diesel used in operating the mine, will make a huge contribution to NSW emissions and make it very difficult for NSW to meet climate targets.

This is at odds with the NSW and Federal Governments commitments to reduce carbon emissions and limit global warming.

The failure to assess the impact of the Scope 3 emissions on the mine locality does not meet the requirements of the Environment Planning and Assessment Act.

Central West NSW is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of a heating climate with increasing extreme weather events. The region has suffered severe social and economic disruption and deaths of citizens due to catastrophic flood events in recent years. 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.

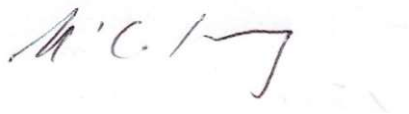
The Central West is the first area where the NSW Government has approved large scale renewable energy projects through the establishment of the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. There is also the formation of the Future Jobs and Investment Authorities to assist the transition away from coal mining.

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 and innovative diversification into other sustainable industries. Central West NSW is a major agricultural region that supports food security. This is under threat from more extreme droughts, floods, bushfires and storm events.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'N.C. King', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nick King
President

environmentcouncilcentralwest@gmail.com