

shiraz semillon merlot chardonnay cabernet sauvignon verdelho shiraz semillon merlot chardonnay cabernet

Development Assessment Systems & Approvals

Department of Planning and Infrastructure

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

June 21st 2013



PYRAMID
HILL
HUNTER VALLEY

Attention: Director, Mining and Industry Project

Re: Objection to Mangoola Coal Modification 6 of Project Approval 06_0014

I am horrified to hear that Mangoola is proposing to increase its production of coal from 10.5 million tonnes pa to 13.5, and consequently increasing the environmental impact. The original application ensured that there would be no discharge of saline water into the Hunter river for obvious reasons. The Hunter is one of the prime agriculture areas in this country and it relies on being able to irrigate from the Hunter River. We have a vineyard in the Denman area that is irrigated from water that is pumped from the Goulburn river. There have been some years when the water quality has become so saline that you can taste salt in the grapes! Most other crops would just die. As we know we can not eat coal and surely it is far more important to preserve our valuable water systems. Not only is high salinity a disaster for agriculture but it is also detrimental to the river environment and biodiversity. In addition increase in production will also result in more Hunter river water being diverted from agriculture to mining and exacerbate the steady decline of agriculture in this once thriving agricultural area. The upper Hunter is being ruined by mines and further expansion should be halted.

An increase of production will add to the cumulative impacts of mine sourced air and noise pollution for the whole Hunter Valley. It will also put additional pressure on the road network. But most importantly the extra coal production adds to climate change threat. It is reported released on 17 June 2013 the Climate Change Commission warned there needed to be a major shift in the way energy is produced if international targets for global warming were to be met. The commission said the best way to avoid a changing climate beyond 2 degrees would be to invest heavily in clean energy, phase out coal and keep most of the world's fossil fuel reserves underground. The expansion will produce additional 2.4 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year!!

Please stop the damage before it becomes irreversible.

Yours

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