

We object to this proposal.

We are concerned that Salim subsidiary MACH Energy Aust. is seeking NSW's government approval to extend the Mt Pleasant mine's operation until 2046, to double coal production and to double the number of coal trains. The locals in the Hunter Valley have endured many expansions of coal mines and know from experience that their health and well being, will be further affected and compromised with the predicted air, noise and water pollutions. This is despite assurances of "best practice" from companies and government regulators to constantly monitor the effects of all pollutions. However, it is usually the locals who check, record and notify breaches.

It is time for the rural communities in the Hunter areas to have a "pleasant" life, living and working in their community and not to be at the mercy of open cut coal mines with their devastating effects. From where will the water be extracted to supply the proposed expansion of the mine and its huge need for water? What will happen when there is another devastating drought, when there is not enough water for the local community's requirements? Which organisation, mine or government department has the authority to decide the priorities of all the communities' water needs? Does it depend who has the greater access to money to buy the required water? This has in fact happened with another coal miner in the Hunter Valley.

When flying over the Hunter Valley, it is a shock to observe the destruction of the farmland and environment with so much open cut mining. It seems short sighted that many other industries with long term employment benefits such as agriculture, tourism, viniculture, horse studs etc. will be sacrificed for the mining industry. From recent research about employment in the mining industry, it was discovered that the percentage was a lot lower than indicated by the industry and government projections. It is known that mining is a short term industry whereas community based industries are there for the long term. What will happen in 20 or 30 years' time, (when the coal has been exhausted) with rectification of the landscape, water contamination, the voids etc. etc? Will the people in the Mt Pleasant district have the same experience as other communities affected by the mining industry, and that the mandatory allocated monies were inadequate to properly remediate the land and water resources.

It is disappointing that the forecasted impact of global warming, is not taken into account with these future mines expansion. It appears that it is up to future generations to solve the many problems which are caused by these ongoing developments.

Thank you for reading this submission.