

Submission:

T4 Preferred Project Report

To the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure,

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition (AYCC) is grateful for the opportunity to respond to this report regarding a project that has the potential for global impacts.

The AYCC represents 100, 000 young Australians concerned about the impacts that climate change will have on our future. As the most severe impacts of climate change will be felt over time, it is younger generations who bear the greatest burden of the consequence of our action or inaction on climate change now.

As the largest exporter of coal in the world, Australia has a defining role and great opportunity to tackle climate change. Newcastle is currently the gateway for the majority of our coal exports.

The local AYCC Newcastle action group has also submitted their concerns on this project, including local impacts. We focus on climate change impacts of the T4 development.

Climate change is impacting Australia, especially South-east Australia, right now. We have just experienced the hottest summer, warmest winter and hottest spring on record, and the earliest ever start to the bushfire season. Climate science reveals South-east Australia as a 'climate change hot spot'. We cannot afford to delay deep cuts to our emissions any longer.

The current proposal for T4 at Newcastle will mean an additional 70 Mt of coal exported from Australia each year. This amount of coal would result in an additional 174 Mt per year carbon dioxide emissions. The Australian Climate Change Authority has found that the world has a budget of only 1,100 gT

carbon dioxide equivalent left to burn if we have a chance of remaining below 2 degrees of climate change¹.

To stay within this budget, new coal export projects can no longer proceed. The Climate Commission found that 80 per cent of current coal reserves must stay in the ground to ensure a reasonable chance of the globe staying below a 2 degree temperature rise. Globally, experts and political leaders are calling for an end to new coal investments. For example, both British and United States Governments have announced that no public funding should go into new coal fired power in global development projects².

Coal is a bad investment for the state of NSW; the development of T4 would be locking the state into a dying industry. Sustainable, reliable and affordable renewable energy technology is available to those countries currently consuming Australia's exported coal. The T4 project is untenable in these circumstances; to proceed would ignore strong scientific evidence of unacceptable risk to the climate.

In light of the impacts that this project would lead to on our climate, our future, and future generations, we strongly recommend that T4 does not proceed.

Thank you,
Kirsty Albion



Co-Director, Australian Youth Climate Coalition

¹ Australian Climate Change Authority (2013), *Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Targets and Progress Review Draft Report*. [Online] <http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/Node/100>

² ABC Environment News (2013), *Britain joins US in ending coal power support overseas*. [Online] <http://www.abc.net.au/environment/articles/2013/11/21/3895994.htm>