

Submission

Ulan Coal MOD 4

expansion proposal.

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I am a resident of Bulga in the Hunter Valley and I OPPOSE the proposed expansion of the Ulan Coal MOD 4 expansion proposal on the following grounds.

1. Further expansions of the coal mining in the headwaters of the Goulburn River will surely endanger of the Hunter River. Cumulative effects of such expansions have not been properly analysed and they are, therefore, unknown in the long term. As a participant in a Hunter irrigation scheme I do not want the availability and quality of the Hunter River water further endangered.
2. Extending of the underground mining of coal under the Durridgere State Conservation Area will further endanger the existence of The Drip gorge which is a wonderful natural beauty spot. I want to preserve The Drip for future generations.
3. The latest climate science reports [see e.g. IPCC (2015)] tell us that the carbon budget to keep the Earth temperature below the 2°C increase is 2900 GtCO₂-e (gigatons of CO₂ equivalent). It has been calculated that at the current rate of burning all fossil fuels this budget will be exhausted in about 19 years [see Evershed (2017), Muttitt *et al.* (2016)]. If we exceed the carbon budget we will be committed to the average temperature increase of more than 2°C. This means a more dangerous Earth climate with an increasing frequency of the extreme weather events such as heatwaves, bushfires, megastorms, droughts, floods, spread of the tropical diseases as well as rising seas. This must result in a reduced food production and many leading thinkers [see e.g. Hamilton (2014)] now worry that living on such an “angry Earth” will also lead to more famines, civil disruptions and wars.

4. Extreme heatwaves we have experienced in the Hunter during the last summer and autumn show that the problem of the accelerating climate change is real. Only people paid well to not see the coming environmental catastrophe still try to ignore it.

There is only one safe way towards the solution to the climate change problem -

EXPANSION OF THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY MUST STOP NOW and starting with the **Ulan Coal MOD 4!**

REFERENCES

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