



**environmentally concerned citizens of orange**

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To whom it may concern

On behalf of the Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange I would like to register our objections to the proposed extension of the Ulan coal mine. They are as follows:

- The current operations of the mine extract an obscene amount of groundwater on a daily basis. It is inconceivable that this amount of water should be diverted for the mining of coal in the first place. Presumably, an extension of the mine would require the use of more water. To divert more water for the purpose of mining coal would be environmentally unsound to say the least.
- The massive extraction of groundwater already has an impact on the flow of the Goulburn river. Further expansion will affect the catchment of the Talbragar river, which flows into the Macquarie River. All of these systems are already under stress. They don't need more grief.
- This proposal has been submitted without any independent study done on the impacts of the mine expansion on the water of the region.
- The economics of expanding a coal mine in today's energy climate don't make sense. It would be like investing in a horse and buggy factory when cars were first introduced. We are now entering an era where renewable energy is regarded as the way forward for environmental and economic reasons. To recommend the expansion of a coal mine would be a retrograde step in the development of energy policy for the future.
- We are constantly confronted with evidence that climate change is real and poses a threat to the survival of the planet as we know it. We know that the continued use of fossil fuels is the major contributor to climate change. Sanctioning the expansion of the mining of coal can be construed as being either a denial of the damage the burning of coal is doing, ignorance of the science of climate change, or placing the short term economic needs of the mining industry above those of the environment and long term wellbeing of our groundwater and river systems and those who depend on them. This borders on the immoral.

In conclusion, we urge you to reject this proposal. The extension of the Ulan Coal Mine poses a threat to the groundwater, it does not make any economic sense and it contributes to climate change.

Yours sincerely,

Nick King

President, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Orange.

