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DARTBROOK MODIFICATION NO 7: OBJECTION POINTS

I'm writing to *object* to the Dartbrook Modification No 7 coal mine proposal.

The cumulative impact of all mines approved and operating in the Hunter Valley to this point has reached an untenable point - for local water systems, for conservation of native fauna and their habitats, for native vegetation conservation, and for the remaining people in communities living in the mine zone. Please consider my objection points.

Climate change:

- It is irresponsible to be approving new coal mines in this era of climate change.
- Earth is past 400 parts per million CO2 equivalent.
- 360 parts per million CO2 equivalent is the benchmark for the stability of Earth's climate that has been recorded for millennia.
- According to an ongoing temperature analysis conducted by scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) the average global temperature on Earth has increased by about 0.8 Celsius since pre-industrial times.
- At this increase we are already witnessing devastating sea level rise, and a breakdown to the climate relied upon for the survival of life on Earth.
- The current trajectory is leading to an untenable warming of 6C degrees
- We cannot afford to keep adding to the accumulated carbon in the atmosphere by digging and mining more coal.
- Short-term jobs and mining royalties can in no way justify the immediate and escalating impacts of devastating climate change.
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Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage

- Neither Aboriginal or Cultural heritage has not been fully or appropriately assessed.
- AQC should have surveyed its entire Mining Boundary Area to provide context for the Aboriginal assessment.

Economic assessment:

- The Proponent's economic analysis is based on costing assumptions that are biased in favour of the Project i.e. Project costs are understated and environmental costs (including impacts of significantly higher truck movements, noise, and dust) have not been included
- No socio-economic impact assessment has been included - as is normally required by the NSW Department of Planning.

Air Quality:

- The projected dust and air quality impacts of the proposal have not been assessed.
- The cumulative air quality impacts have not been assessed.
- This modification starts with exceedances - which is not acceptable.
- The NSW Government has a duty of care to the residents of the Upper Hunter. It must hold mines (individually and collectively) responsible for air quality exceedances.
- NSW Government should not approve any additional mines in the Upper Hunter given the admission by the mine proponent that there will be exceedances and that they will not take any responsibility for these.

Noise:

- AQC fails to provide appropriate assessments of the noise impact of this Modification.
- The proponents noise impact submission is a brief summary with no adequate noise impact analysis and no comparison of the noise limits detailed 20 years ago versus noise levels in today's environment.
- No appropriate detail is provided in AQC's EA to enable a full and transparent interrogation of the Project.
- Noise levels, like air quality, show exceedances of project noise limits.
- This is unacceptable.

Water:

- I am very concerned about the cumulative impact of underground mining on the connected underground water aquifers and the over-stressed Hunter River. This has not been addressed in the proposal.

Loss of amenity:

- Modification will result in 96 truck cycles (192 one-way truck movements) 11 hours per day, 5 days a week.
- Environmental Assessment does not acknowledge or assess the impact of this proposal on 10 -12 rural residences, located 500m to less than 1km from the project) that will be visibly impacted by this modification.
- There are residents in elevated parts of Aberdeen that also have visibility of activities associated with the Modification – which have not been assessed.
- The Modification proposal does not assess the dust and visual impact of significantly higher truck movements on residents and travellers to the area.
- The Modification proposal fails to assess impact on tourism, viticulture and thoroughbred breeding industries.
- The Modification proposal fails to assess the full visual impacts on the town of Aberdeen, the nearby residents, the agricultural industries, as well as the travelers and tourists to the region.

Enough is enough. Please do not approve yet another coal mine in the Hunter Valley.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Morley