



Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

PO Box 188
East Maitland NSW 2323
25th July 2018DartDD

Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 7 – Objection

Hunter Environment Lobby (HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organisation that has been active for well over twenty years on the issues of environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, and climate change.

HEL has particular interest in biodiversity and water management issues in the Hunter Region and has held positions on the Hunter River Management Committee, the Hunter and Paterson Environmental Water Advisory Group and the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network Advisory Committee.

In the documents presented to us by AQC, HEL argues, we find that the cumulative impacts of dust, noise, subsidence, aquifer and ground water interference as well as climate change, have not been adequately assessed.

We support the community in this area many of whom will be objecting to this development because of the damage by air pollution to human and horse health – as this mine is close to the Thoroughbred breeding areas of the Hunter.

Tourism and viticulture will also suffer if this modification goes ahead, and climate change predictions are all looking at accelerated impacts of drought and wild fires in Australia and around the world, as we hear today of fifty deaths in Greece.

There is no other sure way of ensuring climate change impacts will lessen other than leaving coal in the ground and using more and more renewable energy. The important issue of biodiversity is also dependent on a healthy ecosystem – climate change impacts will stretch the limits even more profoundly than at present.

We believe that it is reprehensible for the Department of Planning to seriously support and promulgate an increase in coal mining given the scenarios put to us by a majority of peer reviewed experts on climate change, as well as the Paris Agreement.

Yours in trust,

Jan Davis
President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.