

I object to the proposed modification. I

Enough is enough. The loss of a further 46 hectares of Hunter Valley floor habitat to coal extraction is not appropriate. There has been too much loss and too much coal burnt already.

Proposals made in 2018 to extend mine life ignore the reality of climate change. The mining and burning of coal for the last 200 years has been a major factor in global warming. Australian Federal Government has signed on to the Paris Agreement. State governments should make consistent decisions. The Agreement commits the signatory nations, to keeping global average temperatures increase to below 2 degrees C. Over 90% of Australia's coal reserves need to be left in the ground, unburned, for there to be any chance of keeping the planet habitable for humans.

It is not in the public interest to continue to dig and burn coal.

The extension of the mine life is certainly also not in the public interest of the local residents of Camberwell. The air quality standards in the locality are already routinely breached. It is simply not fair that their health and quality of life is compromised by air pollution from coal mining, with no redress. As an absolute minimalist consideration, the few remaining private landholders of Camberwell must have acquisition rights.

Since 1993, the Mt Owen Mine Project removed half of Ravensworth State Forest, the largest area of remnant vegetation on the overcleared Hunter Valley floor. This is not in the public interest.

The central location of the vegetation in Ravensworth State Forest and the surrounds is important for its functionality as a fauna refuge and 'stepping stone' in a highly fragmented landscape. The remnant includes Ravensworth State Forest, including the New Forest Area, the existing Mount Owen Biodiversity Offset Areas, and other native woodland and forest vegetation that are connected to these conservation areas. The remnant provides an important link in the generally north/south movement of highly mobile species, from other sizeable remnants in the north-west, to large remnants to the south-east and south-west of the Development Footprint.

And ...

The Development Footprint occurs in the Sydney Basin IBRA Bioregion and the Hunter subregion. The Hunter Valley is considered to be of great ecological significance given that it represents the only major break in the Great Dividing Range (linking coastal and inland areas of NSW), and includes an overlap between tropical and temperate climate zones (McVicar TR *et al.* 2015). The Hunter subregion contains 27 endangered ecological communities, eight endangered populations and 116 threatened animal species, listed under New South Wales legislation, of which 33 are also listed under Commonwealth legislation (McVicar TR *et al.* 2015). Twelve groundwater-dependent ecosystems have been identified in the Hunter subregion (McVicar TR *et al.* 2015).

extracts from Appendix 13 of SEE for Mt Owen Continued Operations Mod 2)

The Framework for Biodiversity Assessment appears to fail to account appropriately for the context of this modification proposal. It is "only" another 46ha of disturbance. This adds to the already large Mt Owen Complex Disturbance Area of 2534ha. And this mine, together with the Ashton and Rix's Creek Mines is a massive disturbance area. The value of the integrity of the extant vegetation is not recognized.

This cannot be offset.

The greenhouse effect from increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere continues to shape government attitude in many countries to energy production and consumption around the world. Australia might soon start to accept the inevitable, we cannot continue with 'business as usual' if we want to limit global warming.