Adrian Ingleby
67 Station Road,
Otford NSW 2508
13th June, 2022

Exhibition of State Significant Infrastructure Application
Denrobium Mine Extension Project
Application No. SSI-33143123

1. I object to the application.

2. I reside in the Wollongong City Council Local Government area next to the southern boundary of the Royal National Park.

3. The Old Princes Highway, Helensburgh is 6 kilometres from my home and one of the boundary fences of the Woronora and Nepean Water Catchment Area runs next to and parallel with the Old Princes Highway, Helensburgh which is located on *Dharawal Country.*

4. The boundary fence has signs attached to it at regular intervals:-

Special Area

To protect our drinking water

No entry
Maximum penalty $44000

National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW — Sydney Catchment Authority

ooOoo

[image of an eye] This area is under Surveillance

National Parks & Wildlife Service NSW — Sydney Catchment Authority

ooOoo

5. **Note:-** This water catchment area has been declared a **"Special Area".**

6. The dams located within the water catchment area are the Cataract, Cordeaux, Avon and Nepean and they supply much of the drinking water that is consumed by the population living in the Sydney area.

7. Drinking water is Australia's and the worlds' most valuable asset and the advent of climate change and its destructive impacts makes safe, clean drinking water an even more precious and essential commodity. Wars and mass migrations will eventuate as a result of the adverse impacts of climate change.

8. The Woronora and Nepean Water Catchment Area is located near Wollongong and it is in New South Wales. It is also located in Australia which is a small part of planet earth. It is an asset belonging to every Australian and its' unique and magical environment is also an asset to the flora and fauna living and growing within it. It must be protected and preserved in perpetuity. Once damaged it can't be repaired.

9. So you don't have to live near the Dendrobium Mine Extension Project to want to protect that area. Every person has a responsibility to preserve and protect the area, notwithstanding any commercial desire by a mining company or the New South Wales government to turn coal into a profit or to generate money for treasury coffers.

10. The drinking water catchment and its' ecosystems are more than "State Significant Infrastructure," they are "Australia Significant Infrastructure." This environment has been declared protected and zoned as a "Special Area." Our political forebears allowed coal mining there which was not a smart move, but today with our development of renewable energy and our knowledge of global warming and climate change; allowing coal mining or extending coal mines is crazy.

Environmental concerns

11. Detailed submissions were lodged with the Independent Planning Commission [IPC] in regard to the many potential adverse environmental impacts of this project, including the risk of subsidence, water loss and greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere etc., Those issues are valid and have been backed up by reports from reputable experts in the various fields. Therefore, I do not intent to repeat that which is already on the record and is available to you. The decision regarding the extent of adverse environmental impacts should be made on the basis of reputable science.

Does coal have a future?

A – No.

12. Coal is in its' dying decade, firstly because a better product has arrived, to wit, renewable energy. Renewable energy obtains its energy *free* from the sun, wind and via water flow [Solar PV, Wind turbines, Hydro and Pumped hydro etc.,]. The fuel is also free and renewables are now a cheaper method of producing energy than energy produced from coal generation. Renewable energy is non-polluting.

13. Climate change is real and the Paris Agreement is a contract signed by the leaders of all the major countries around the world [and smaller] to take positive action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, so as to keep the "warming" down to a level that will prevent catastrophic adverse impacts to everyone and everything on this planet.

14. The Paris Agreement is the nail in the coffin of coal, followed shortly after by gas.

15. **Methane.** [1]

EMBER
Coal to Clean
TACKLING AUSTRALIA's COAL MINE METHANE PROBLEM
Lead Author Dr. Sabina Assan
08.06.2022

Australia's coal mines have a methane problem. In 2019, they released 68% of Australia's methane emissions from the energy industry overall, making coal mines a larger contributor than both oil and gas. What's more, new evidence suggests emissions are underreported and are actually significantly higher than this.

Methane leaking from coal mines has been ignored for many years, but tackling it is the 'low hanging fruit' in Australia's effort to combat climate change. Methane is a potent and fast-acting greenhouse gas, which is 82.5 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over 20 years, making the task of reducing methane levels even more important in the near-term.

Reducing coal use, and legislating the end of new coal, are crucial to this goal. To tackle leaks immediately, existing technology must be used to directly measure methane emissions as well as capture and/or utilise the methane leaking from active and closed coal mines. It is up to the Australian government to legislate a robust plan to rapidly reduce leaks in the short term and jump-start a just transition to phase out coal.

In 2019, coal companies reported via the Australian Greenhouse Emissions Information System (AGEIS) that their mines leaked 898,000 tonnes of methane into the atmosphere, representing 5% of Australia's total GHG emissions. Methane's short-term climate impact is 82.5 times that of carbon dioxide, making the methane released by coal mines equivalent to 74.3 million tonnes of CO2 . This is greater than the 44 million tonnes of car CO2 emissions reported in AGEIS for 2019.

The IEA estimated that Australian coal mines emitted 1.8 million tonnes of methane in 2021, double the officially reported figures. Independent satellite measurements have also uncovered underreporting of methane emissions from Australian coal mines. Open-pit mines in particular show the greatest disparity between reported and measured emissions - Hail Creek open pit mine was shown to be leaking more than 10 times the amount reported to regulators. Emission factor based reporting must be replaced with direct, source and site level methane measurements if Australia aims to seriously address its CMM emissions.

Australia is the world's 6th largest coal mine methane emitter and on track to become the 3rd worst. Existing methane leaks aren't being plugged with any urgency. Mines are not voluntarily stepping up to implement methane abatement technology, and regulation on methane emissions measurement and reporting is patchy. What's more, new coal mines are likely to result in further increases in methane leaks, and 45% of these are thermal-only mines. Queensland's proposed mines will double the state's current emissions. In NSW, two recently approved mine extensions could emit a further 112 Mt CO2 -e in their lifetime.

One specific example of Australia's coal industry needing to tackle its methane emissions arises from the European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM). This regulation, which is currently going through the European Parliament, seeks to prevent polluting activities being outsourced to countries with weaker climate regulations. CBAM works by EU importers buying certificates corresponding to the carbon price that would have been paid had the goods been produced under the EU's own rules. Methane emissions are expected to fall under the CBAM radar. In the context of Europe banning Russian coal imports due to the war in Ukraine, this will have direct consequences for Australian coal exporters. Methane leaks are now visible from space, and polluters are being held to account. Several new satellite programmes are under development to further improve our understanding of the scale and location of anthropogenic methane emissions, including the MethaneSAT initiative led by the Environmental Defence Fund. In December 2021, the European Commission proposed legislation targeting methane emissions, including coal mine methane. The legislation has important consequences for countries such as Poland (mining most of the EU's methane intensive coal), and Germany, the Czech Republic and Romania which have abandoned coal mines. An overview of the proposed legislation is provided in this video. Following the China-US joint declaration on confronting climate change in 2021, China has announced a methane action plan, aimed at cutting methane emissions in major industries, including coal mining.

The United Nations Environmental Programme's Production Gap report estimated that coal output needs to fall by 11% each year to 2030 in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. It should be noted that the commercial viability of proposed coal projects is constantly shifting, and the projects may not reach final implementation. However, if Australia's proposed production capacity is realised, the country will by 2030 be producing more than five times the maximum production amount to achieve a 1.5° compliant pathway in 2030.

Methane continues leaking from mines long after mining is stopped. Many mines in Australia remain in "care and maintenance" for years without being fully closed and rehabilitated. The Australia Institute found only eight mines have reached final closure in the past ten years. It is unclear how accurately methane emissions from "care and maintenance" sites are reported. [1]

Comment:-

16. A good start in regard to climate action would be to **stop mining coal** and Sydney's pristine and priceless drinking water catchment area.

Carbon Border Adjustments
[GHG emissions]

17. **The Australia Institute** [2]

June, 2021 - The Australia Institute issued a discussion paper in June, 2021 in regard to CBAs [1] and advised that The European Union (EU), the US, Canada, Japan and the UK are ramping up climate commitments ahead of the COP26 Climate Summit, including through domestic carbon prices. To enable their carbon pricing to operate

effectively across the global economy, they are contemplating carbon border adjustment mechanisms (CBAMs). Once implemented, CBAMs will tax the carbon content of imports from countries with unpriced carbon, such as Australia. The UK, as host of the upcoming G7, has confirmed the Summit will include discussions on coordinating carbon pricing and CBAMs. The UK Prime Minister has even tested the idea of a "carbon club" of like-minded countries with high climate ambition, carbon pricing and coordinated border adjustments.

In a few weeks, the EU Commission will present the world's first detailed CBAM proposal, a central part of their economic recovery plan under the European Green Deal and their efforts to meet their ambitious target of at least a 55% cut in emissions this decade.

There are 43 manufacturing processes that are considered Emissions Intensive and Trade Exposed (EITE) in Australia. When aligned with Australia's exports statistics, it is clear that EITEs account for only a small proportion of the total value of Australia's exports of goods, worth $20.1 billion or 5% (in 2019-20). Of those, primary metals accounted for the vast bulk of Australia's EITE exports - 88% in 2018-19 and 87% in 2019-20. However, the concern is that some of those primary metal goods are mainly produced for the export market. 83% of alumina and 92% of aluminium produced in Australia are exported. In addition, alumina and aluminium make up over 50% (by value) of EITE exports, worth on average about $12 billion annually.

Last year, 64% of aluminium (as well as 40% of Australia's steel) was exported to countries where carbon prices are in place or under consideration. And alumina and aluminium made in Australia are highly emissions-intensive compared to competitors (outside of China).

Therefore, a CBAM is a serious risk for some goods in Australia, and potentially a serious opportunity for those that decarbonise production methods.

Under all circumstances, the safest course of action is for Australia to diversify its production by investing in the production of clean exports. Transitioning industries reliant on fossil fuels – such as hydrogen, ammonia, steel, and aluminium – **to be powered by renewables will allow them to operate under any scenario.** [2]

18. **EY Consultancy firm** [3]

November, 2021 - The Australian economy faces significant risks from a net zero future regardless of domestic policies, with a major consulting firm **warning the nation's exports are more heavily exposed to the emissions policies of major trading partners.**

The economy is at a greater risk from a global shift towards net zero than local climate change policies, modelling from major consultancy firm EY shows, with about 85 per cent of the value of Australian exports used for goods that require emissions-intensive production processes. This is up from 55 per cent 40 years ago.

EY chief economist Jo Masters said the modelling did not consider the benefits of shifting to net zero, but showed how exposed the nation was to decisions made by other nations' governments. On these estimates, 64 per cent of the risks to GDP from the shift to net zero are due to abatement policies from major trading partners, with less of the risk due to local emissions plans.

"We need to have a really keen eye on the policies that our trading partners are committing to, the timeframe of those and their plan to get there," Ms Masters said. [3]

19. **Dept of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources – analysis by McKinsey and Federal Treasury** [4]

April, 2022 - **"Capital Risk Premium"** - The details are included in a report produced by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources which cites analysis prepared by consultancy McKinsey, as well as the federal treasury.

Modelling commissioned by the Morrison government shows that failures to adequately respond to the growing climate crisis could see Australia lumped with spiralling costs to service its trillion dollar public debt as global markets punish borrowers for failing to cut emissions.

The predicted impacts on Australia's public finances due to climate change policies were buried away in policy modelling commissioned by the federal government, but could play a major role in an election campaign set to be fought on economic management.

But the government modelling shows the interest rates paid by Australia for its trillion dollar debt could double, or more, if global investors attach a significant risk premium to the cost of debt for its failure to deal adequately with climate issues.

The CEO of the Climate Bonds Initiative, Sean Kidney, highlighted the modelling in a post on LinkedIn.

"This may be the first such analysis published by a major government on the climate risk to its sovereign debt," he wrote. "They suggested that cost of their sovereign debt could rise by 100-300bps without clear strategies to reach net-zero."

According to federal budget documents, Australia currently pays a "weighted average cost of borrowing of around 2.2 per cent" on its sovereign debt, leading to an interest cost of around $19 billion a year. An increase of 300 basis points would potentially add another $24 billion to those annual costs. [4]

20. **Reputex report** [5]

October, 2021 - The Northern Territory government is facing an annual carbon offset bill as high as $1.36 billion a year to account for the emissions from fracking in the Beetaloo Basin, a cost so large it could make the industry economically unviable.

New analysis from Reputex suggests that taxpayers could be lumped with a bill as big as $22 billion over 20 years for carbon offsets due to a forecast surge in emissions as fracking activity ramps up over coming decades.

Reputex, a leading carbon market analyst, has completed an in-depth economic and climate analysis of the NT's gas expansion plans, which estimates the expansion of gas extraction in the Beetaloo and Macarthur Basins could be responsible for up to 1.4 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over 20 years.

Reputex says that in an alternate scenario where the extra greenhouse gas emissions are not offset, Australia could struggle to meet future emissions reduction targets, and the projects themselves run a significant risk of becoming stranded assets.

"Beetaloo basin gas emissions represent a large source of additional GHG emissions entering the Australian economy at a time when rapid global emission reductions are necessary to limit the effects of global warming. To this end, new oil and gas fields from 2021 have been modelled by the IEA to be inconsistent with a net-zero pathway," Reputex adds. [5]

21. **Reputex report** [6]

May, 2021 - A new analysis published by analyst firm Reputex on Monday estimates that around 7GW of new wind and solar projects will be commissioned in Australia's main grid within the next two years, with a pipeline of more than 60GW of new projects out to 2040.

The majority of this new capacity will be focused in New South Wales and Victoria and will come as around 13GW of black coal power stations and 1.4GW of brown coal generators exit the market over the same period.

The exit of fossil fuels from the market is expected to see the market share of coal and gas generators fall below 50 per cent as early as 2025 and below 30 per cent by 2030. But Reputex also predicts the share of gas generation could fall as low as 1 per cent by 2030, in contrast to the government's "gas transition" plans.

Reputex analysis echoed recent suggestions of Energy Security Board chair Kerry Schott, with both suggesting that Australia is on track for a renewable energy penetration above 90 per cent by 2040, despite minimal support from the federal government.

Reputex says that this growth in low cost wind and solar generation will help to suppress electricity prices, with wholesale prices expected to stabilise around $40 to $50 per megawatt-hour.

"State plans to accelerate new transmission infrastructure is now likely to release the long-term handbrake on renewable energy investment, resulting in a significant change to the speed of the transition from coal to renewables under our forecast scenarios."

"As this occurs, a tsunami of large-scale renewable energy is likely to enter the market over the next decade, increasing competition for dispatch, reducing the influence of gas prices, and maintaining lower wholesale prices over the forecast period," Harper added.

Reputex says the rapidly falling costs of clean energy technologies, including the cost of large-scale battery storage projects, meant that gas fuelled generators are likely to see themselves getting squeezed out of the electricity market. [6]

Comment:-

22. Australia's National Energy Market [NEM] has reached the stage where it can function well with renewables and battery and other storage. Good examples of such success are South Australia [60% renewables] and the Australian Capital Territory [100% renewables].

23. The New South Wales government reaps the financial benefits of coal sold to overseas customers but it is clear that 'boarder adjustment taxes' will soon cut off the head of the goose that has up until now, been laying the [coal] golden eggs.

24. Further the recent "hit" in prices for coal and gas because of our floods and the Russian invasion of Ukraine will be short lived. The coal and gas CEOs may be smiling now but prices will drop and the redundancy of their products will continue.

25. Billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes recently made an attempt to buy AGL and when that was unsuccessful, he bought 10% of the company and scuttled their demerger attempt. If that demerger had succeeded there is a fair chance that in the future the "coal section" of the demerger would have been declared bankrupt, leaving the New South Wales taxpayer to foot the bill of any remediation costs of the coal generator sites. Additionally, Mike Cannon-Brookes and his expert advisors can see that AGL will thrive and prosper if it progressively exists coal and focuses on the build of renewable energy generation.

Is the applicant hopeful that their coal will be used at the Port Kembla steelworks

26. One of the biggest and fastest moving and growing energy resources in development is "Renewable Hydrogen". It is non-polluting and will power industry, mining, trucks, ships and trains.

Renewable Hydrogen [7]

27. Billionaire, Andrew Forrest of Fortescue Metals and Fortescue Future Industries [FFI], in particular, are moving with renewable hydrogen quickly and in a massive way. Mr. Forrest has been working tirelessly travelling with a team of his executives throughout the world over the past two years setting up FFI to be a global leader in 'renewable hydrogen'. Many, many other Australian and global corporations are doing the same. Billions of dollars are being invested. Renewable hydrogen is here and ready to go. Mr. Forrest pulls no punches in saying that fossil fuels are dead and should be dead, "to stop our frying planet earth."

28. I will not list all the renewable hydrogen projects that are in development as the New South Wales Government is well aware of them and it is involved in supporting many.

29. Fortescue Future Industries, the company leading iron ore billionaire Andrew Forrest's ambitious green energy transition plans, has suggested that Australia is more likely to follow a "hydrogen superpower" scenario that would see the end of coal generation within a decade.

February, 2020 - In a submission to the Australian Energy Market Operator's draft 2022 Integrated System Plan, Fortescue applauds the market operator's work to define a "step change" scenario that will usher in a rapid transition to renewables over the next decade or two.

But Fortescue believes it will go quicker than that, and that "step change" will be quickly superseded – possibly as early as the 2024 ISP – by the "hydrogen superpower" scenario that models the end of all coal generation in Australia by 2032, and is the only scenario consistent with 1.5°C.

Fortescue, however, says it and its' competitors are working to timescales that align more closely with early large scale hydrogen commencing operation from the mid-2020s, and the industry becoming well established by 2030.

"This is in contrast to the slower uptake projected in the Hydrogen Superpower scenario," it says. "We would be pleased to provide a confidential briefing to the AEMO ISP team on FFIs project plans to better inform the hydrogen superpower scenario ahead of the 2024 ISP development."

Fortescue says that AEMO may need to reconsider its transmission and storage forecasts in light of a massive investment in flexible hydrogen electrolysers.

"Once the system reaches high penetrations of zero marginal cost renewable energy, and the opportunity costs for electrolyser flexibility reduce, we may begin to see GW scale electrolyser facilities being used to balance the system and provide system services such as frequency response," it says. [7]

29. Mr. Forrest's Squadron Energy wants to build a hydrogen power station at Port Kembla. [8]

March, 2021 - Mr. Forrest is willing to fund the $1 billion power station from his own pocket through his privately owned Squadron Energy and said he was in talks with both governments about providing a non-coal solution to the state's energy woes.

The power station would sit next to an import terminal Squadron is already building *[at Port Kembla]* that will have capacity to handle LNG and green hydrogen cargoes.

The power station plan is closely aligned with the push by Dr Forrest's Fortescue Metals Group to add green hydrogen production to its iron ore operations.

Fortescue is eyeing first green hydrogen production **in 2023** and Dr Forrest wants one of its first customers to be the Port Kembla import terminal, which would eventually drop LNG, as would the dual-fuel power station.

Dr Forrest said the new facility would be a more than adequate replacement for the ageing, coal-fired Liddell power station in the NSW Hunter Valley as he warned unions, political parties and the Morrison government to realise that **coal's days were "either over or numbered".**

He said the Australian Energy Market Operator, an independent agency, was trying to talk him down to 650 megawatts because it wanted diversity of supply.

"We think it should be 850-1000 megawatts and we are being pushed down to 650 because the government [AEMO] wants a lot of diversity in supply and that makes sense," Dr Forrest said.

"But no one else is saying they are going to build a green hydrogen power station. That is what the people of NSW want and I believe that is what the government should deliver.
Port Kembla has a great future but it might not be coal. You can see it all around you that coal's days are either over or numbered.

— Andrew Forrest

“I would expect their full support and approval. We are going through those detailed negotiations now and there is nothing but encouragement.”

Dr Forrest was in Port Kembla last week for a town hall meeting where he said there was despair over what he sees as the inevitable demise of the coal industry.

“The government cannot threaten coal – the only threat to coal is what has happened already,” he said.

“Port Kembla has a great future but it might not be coal. You can see it all around you that coal’s days are either over or numbered.”

The company has set a June 30 target to start a series of trials using batteries, green ammonia and green hydrogen across the mining operation, including to run its locomotives and to power drill rigs, haul trucks and ships.

A separate trial in the heart of its West Australian mining operations **will focus on using renewable energy to convert iron ore to iron without coal.** [8]

30. Rio Tinto and Bluescope renewable hydrogen venture at Port Kembla.[9]

October, 2021 - The pace of green manufacturing ventures in Australia is accelerating, as mining giant Rio Tinto and steel maker Bluescope announced a venture to use renewable energy to make green steel in Port Kembla, while Fortescue announced another hydrogen technology purchase.

Rio Tinto, fresh from announcing it would power its two big aluminium smelters in Australia with renewables by the end of the decade, and build another 2GW of wind and solar for its iron ore mines, says the deal with Bluescope will focus on using renewable hydrogen in the steel making process.

“This concept will involve producing a low emissions iron feed for consumption at Port Kembla and will explore the direct reduction of Rio Tinto’s Pilbara iron ores, with the intent of using green hydrogen produced from renewable electricity,” a joint statement said.

“The **direct reduced iron (DRI)** from this process will be melted in an electrical furnace, powered with renewable electricity, to produce iron suitable for the steelmaking process.”

The first phase of the project will be used to determine the scale of a pilot plant to be based at Bluescope's Port Kembla Steelworks, consisting of a hydrogen electrolyser, direct reduction equipment and a melter.

"The new collaboration will focus on utilising green hydrogen for direct reduction of Rio Tinto's Pilbara iron ores, which will then be fed into a melter," BlueScope CEO Mark Vassella said in a statement.

"This is an important program – one which will need broad support from governments, regulators, customers and suppliers.

"At a time when there is much talk and expectation about decarbonisation, this is an example of two significant Australian businesses getting on with real action. **We are putting our dollars and our people right on the front line of addressing climate change.** [9]

Comment:-

31. Any coal extracted from the Dendrobium Mine will not be required by the Port Kembla Steelworks. It is clear that Andrew Forrest and his Fortescue Future Industries [FFI], aswell as Rio Tinto and Bluescope are way ahead of the game with progress on their proposed renewable hydrogen projects.

32. Mr. Forrest, a smart and successful billionaire businessman said,
"Port Kembla has a great future but it might not be coal. You can see it all around you that coal's days are either over or numbered."

33.

insiders

Sunday, 24th October, 2021
https://iview.abc.net.au/video/NC2109V038S00

Presenter: **David Speers**

Guest: **Matt Kean, NSW Treasurer and Minister for Energy and the Environment**

33. Minister Kean was interviewed about climate policy and some of his comments are relevant to coal mining and atmospheric emissions targets.

Listed below are excerpts only, of some of his comments:-

Matt Kean:

Well I'm a coalitionist and what we did was work to find common ground with the coalition and that was developing policies that would reduce our carbon emissions but grow our economy; reduce our carbon emissions but create jobs; drive investment

largely into the regions. So we worked constructively finding those opportunities where we could reduce our carbon emissions but not add increases to cost of living; create new jobs and drive investment into rural and regional New South Wales. Take for example our renewable energy zones, that's basically the modernization of our electricity system that will see about $32 billion worth of private capital going into rural and regional Australia. That means jobs, that means opportunities and an investment boom like the regions have never seen before in this state.

Etc., etc., discussion re coal jobs.

Matt Kean:

…… We understand that those coal jobs, those coal communities are gonna be impacted by decisions of foreign governments and foreign companies; that we need to prepare for that future that's a future which has the major coal export markets that we send our, our product to moving to a low carbon future. So we need to start to think about how we diversify those economies, how we safeguard those jobs into the future and how we set the regions up for a more prosperous successful future.

David Speers:

What does that look like, what does that look like practically for those workers in coal right now.

Matt Kean:

That means creating, looking for investment in the creation of new industries like hydrogen for example. We know that Japan and South Korea key, two key coal export markets for New South Wales have said hydrogen is going to be the fuel that is going to power their economy in the future and we can produce that hydrogen, ship it to Japan and South Korea and do so by creating jobs and investment opportunities in the Hunter and the Illawarra.

David Speers:

But those jobs, those jobs aren't there right now, they may be, hopefully soon, but they're not there right now and you know, there's scepticism around this, last month nearly 80 workers at the states' largest coal mine the Mt. Arthur BHP mine were told to either resign or transfer interstate and some said they felt chucked in the gutter. Where was the support for them.

Matt Kean:

Well denying the reality of what's happening internationally is not an answer to this problem and this is about making sure that we're honest with the Australian public, explaining exactly the risks that are happening as a result of these mega trends and preparing ourselves for what the future looks like.

Etc., etc.,

David Speers:

So what are these workers, what help do these workers get.

Matt Kean:

Well we're investing heavily in skills and training, we're building new industries in those coal exposed communities like the Hunter and the Illawarra; like the hydrogen industry; we're investing $3 billion to turbo charge the hydrogen industry in the Hunter and the Illawarra which will create hundreds, well thousands of jobs, that will create unbelievable prosperity and see investment coming into the region like we've never seen before.

David Speers:

You mentioned hydrogen and renewables a lot there. Can I ask you about gas. The federal governments spending $600 million on a new gas plant at Kurri Kurri. Is that needed.

Matt Kean:

Well gas has a role to play in manufacturing, certainly in the short term. But if you're moving to a low carbon future then gas is not going to be needed, but I'd like …..

David Speers:

---------- is this plant needed.

Matt Kean:

I think this plant has a role to play in supporting the transition to renewables in the short term, but I don't want to see us investing in things that could be a white elephant. I want us to invest in the things that are going to grow our productivity and grow our prosperity and set us up for a better future. And that's exactly what the renewable energy infrastructure plan, the most ambitious renewable energy infrastructure plan in the nation. Ah so we're doubling down on that David.

David Speers:

Okay, but this plant, this Kurri Kurri plant is okay. Do you support that or is that a white elephant.

Matt Kean:

Well the Commonwealth government, it's the Commonwealth governments money, we're not gonna knock back $600 million worth of investment. We think that the gas peaking plants will help at the margins in helping us transition to that renewable energy future, but you know, if they want to spend $600 million of taxpayer money on

a gas plant which I don't think will have a long term future in New South Wales, then knock themselves out.

David Speers:

Doesn't sound like you'd be doing it.

Matt Kean:

We're not doing it. We've got our energy infrastructure roadmap which is focusing on renewable energy, making sure, and we're doing it in a way that's going to drive down electricity bills in New South Wales. Our energy infrastructure plan will drive down household bills by on average $130 per household and by on average $430 for businesses across this state. So it's going to reduce our emissions but also drive down household bills and grow our economy.

End excerpts from Insiders interview

34. Mr Kean made comments such as, - "*and that was developing policies that would reduce our carbon emissions but grow our economy; reduce our carbon emissions but create jobs; drive investment largely into the regions." – "Take for example our renewable energy zones, that's basically the modernization of our electricity system that will see about $32 billion worth of private capital going into rural and regional Australia." – "… We understand that those coal jobs, those coal communities are gonna be impacted by decisions of foreign governments and foreign companies; that we need to prepare for that future that's a future which has the major coal export markets that we send our, our product to moving to a low carbon future. So we need to start to think about how we diversify those economies, how we safeguard those jobs into the future and how we set the regions up for a more prosperous successful future." –"Well denying the reality of what's happening internationally is not an answer to this problem and this is about making sure that we're honest with the Australian public, explaining exactly the risks that are happening as a result of these mega trends and preparing ourselves for what the future looks like."*

35. Minister Kean is unique in that he is prepared to say honestly what he thinks and believes in and he is prepared to buck the party line when giving his views. I do not believe there is another politician in either of the two major political parties at a state, territory or federal level with anything like his honesty and guts.

36. Minister Roberts, the coal lobby donates massive sums of money to both major political parties at a state, territory and federal level and that's totally legal. Such donations would certainly tend to gain access and influence. However, for the reasons stated in my report I urge you to "reject the application" and protect our "State Significant Infrastructure" to wit, our pristine drinking water catchment area. A rejection of the application would also show the rest of the world that we are serious about taking climate action and in protecting our environment and planet.

A. M. Ingleby
13th June, 2022

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