

29<sup>th</sup> of January 2020

Dear Major Projects NSW,

I am writing to you to object to the Glendell Continued Operations Project.

Any individual who accepts scientific consensus would view any expansion of fossil fuel mining as dangerous with overwhelming evidence of the link between carbon emissions and warming already discussed *ad nauseum*, although it is worth stating that the GHG contribution of an expanded Mount Owen Complex mine would exceed 230million tonnes which is in keeping with a “high emissions trajectory” as per the mines own admission. This would cause a catastrophic projected temperature increase over the next 80 years to almost 3.4 degrees.

In the specific case of the Glendell Continued Operations Project there are a multitude of additional reasons the mine needs to be wound back as planned besides just its contribution to global temperature increase.

Specifically, the Mount Owen Expansion;

- Ignores that the public tolerance of air pollution is less following increased awareness of its damaging health effects in the 2019-2020 fire season. Recent high levels of hazardous exposure to **carcinogenic PM10 particles** due to the fires makes it even more unethical to increase PM10 exposure for Hunter residents further burdening our families and health services.
- The mine will exacerbate the Hunter **drought crisis**. Groundwater assessment shows dramatic drawdown of the coal seam under the Bowman’s Creek alluvium propagates upward causing loss of surface water. This is in the context of **40 towns being estimated to have less than 3 months of water supply in the upper Hunter** and towns like **Murrurundi, Blandford and Gloucester** being totally dry, relying on drinking water shipments from other areas to survive.
- Leaves the Hunter region again at risk of a **bankrupt mining concern** not fulfilling its contractually obligated **environmental repair** and regeneration duties (as has happened in this region previously).
- Coal mining expansion lacks national public support due to increased awareness and concern about climate change and its social and economic damage. **The risk versus benefit of mining concerns has drastically shifted in the public perception** now we are experiencing the effects of unmitigated climate change on our lives, homes, businesses, wildlife and landscapes.
- 2044 is well after Australia has agreed to stop burning coal to meet already agreed upon targets. Ignoring Scope 3 or downstream emissions within this agreement leaves two options: either we don’t meet global targets or we do with reduction of overseas emissions which would leave mining concerns like **the Glendell expansion insoluble with no country to export to**.
- Expanded coal mining delays the transition of mining employed workers into more sustainable career options which could cause worse **long term unemployment**.

To paraphrase the old song; is nothing as precious as a hole in the ground?

Regards



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