

OBJECTION to Drayton South Coal project- Application Number: 11_0062

I wish to strongly object to this proposal to extend the already alarming impacts of open cut coal mining to the south east of the huge Mt Arthur Nth operations. As a resident of the Hunter valley for the last 30 years I have witnessed the transformation of the area around Singleton and Muswellbrook to something resembling a lunar landscape which can never be rehabilitated

This proposal to extract 119 million tonnes of coal over 27 years will cause noise and air pollution, adding to the deleterious health effects already suffered by the residents who live in or near that area, and it will produce an additional 0.31tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year. The latest news on climate change is so worrying that if the government is serious as serious as it says it is about the matter it must reject this mine proposal.

In addition the mine will destroy 1,928 ha of vegetation including 107 ha of critically endangered Box Gum Woodland and 398ha of native forest, woodland and shrubland. To add insult to injury the proposed biodiversity offset is in a different bioregion about 70kms to the north of the mine proposal. How is this a meaningful or fair offset?

The mine is adjacent to seven thoroughbred horse studs, eleven dairies, four vineyards and an olive grove with processing plant. The economic benefits of this mine added to its environmental damage can't outweigh the overall social and economic pluses of the diverse agriculture of this area.

When the inevitable adverse impacts on the Hunter River, Saddlers Creek and Saltwater Creek are taken into consideration the government has no choice but to reject this proposal.

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