Hunter Valley Operations Modification 5 – D497/ 17

Dear PAC Commissioners,

As you will have heard at the WAMBO PAC in Singleton there is a high degree of frustration within the community with respect to the on going approval of mine expansions and new mines called mine expansions.

Commissioners cannot fail to be aware of climate change and our role in accelerating it. Living in the Upper Hunter I had the shocking experience of my first 44°C day less than 10 years ago. There have been several since then.

For those of us writing or attending PACS or challenging the legality of continuing to approve the production of Greenhouse gases it beggar's belief that people in positions of trust and authority are being dragged along a coal approval process with all the double speak of 1984.

Not only does HVO want to take more land and coal, it wants to take it significantly faster. and accelerated rate from the peak of 16Mtpa to 20Mtpa. This rush must be seen as obscene. Get this money before this mining is banned. There must be many people considering where they can live given the weather, dust and noise already makes for uninhabitable conditions.

This modification might look tidy to the people planning neater ravaging holes in the landscape but the biological break of connectivity between the N and S of the mine, does represent serious cumulative impact, including further loss of connectivity which supports biodiversity. While most people do not grasp the significance of biodiversity it is never the less key to the quality of our lives, both mentally and physically, and the health of our environment. Global stories of deoxygenated zones in the ocean, acidification of the ocean, coral bleaching, increasing rate of extreme weather events are all directly linked to burning fossil fuels and NSW DoP would approve accelerating coal mining?

Local impacts of increased dust loads, excessive noise and disruption and loss of ground water continue to spell out that this region is being sacrificed by our governments and that the people who are of this land or live and work here are of no real consequence. Hourly dust averages in the Upper Hunter are already exceeding current AQ standards. Theit comes to choosing to facilitate mining or care for the well being of the community, mining wins.

I strongly object to sacrificing more land, our health and the global environment for another expansion beyond the initial approval.

Wendy Wales

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