

Hunter Valley Water Users Association

Arthur Burns President

[REDACTED]

HI Megan

Thank you for notifying me of the proposed meeting of PAC at Singleton on 31st May.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend as I am currently overseas and will not be back in Australia in time for the hearing.

I would appreciate if you could pass on to the commissioners the following comments:

Hunter Valley Water Users re affirms comments made in our submission and at the previous PAC hearing.

We note that NSW Office of Water in late December maintained strong opposition to the project despite strong pressure from proponents and DOP and in full knowledge of late information. We support their stance.

We are very much aware of the current Draft Strategic Regional Land Use Planning proposals and Draft Aquifer Interference Policy and would submit that Ashton,s proposal would never have been seriously considered under proposed rules.

We are also aware of recent contamination from a nearby mine that has been closed for some years. This water eventually reaches the Hunter River and despite the best efforts of that mines owners they have not been able to stop the flow. (details published in Singleton Argus on or about 8th May 2012 referring to Greater Greta Colliery)

Having in mind the above reasons and the fact that Ashton has already had unpredicted effects on aquifers and regulated streams we strongly hope that the Planning Assessment Commission again reject this proposal.

As I will not be in Australia I would be happy to expand on the above after 12th June if necessary when I return.

Yours Sincerely
Arthur Burns
President
23rd May 2012