

18. Michael Meldrum

Hume Coal Project SSD 7172 & Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171  
Independent Planning Commission NSW – Review with Public Hearing

Michael Meldrum  
Climate Action Now Wingecarribee. Inc.

My name is Michael Meldrum and I have a direct interest in the proposed development as a local resident who will be particularly affected by the proposed development. I also represent Climate Action Now Wingecarribee, Inc. (CANWin) which is not directly affected by the proposed development but has an indirect interest in the project as a representative of its members and the wider Wingecarribee population.

For interest of the commissioners and others in the room I will start by way of a brief introduction of CANWin. This organisation was formed in 2006 in the following three years held regular street events such as the Walk Against Warming which were well attended and documented on our website. Since those early marches CANWin has continued to act in several ways including Guest Speakers on a variety of climate change and related issues.

After joining CANWin in 2011 at a very successful Clean Energy Workshop, I was subsequently elected as Renewable Energy Discussion Leader and in 2013 took over the role of Convenor.

It is in this role that I attended the Australian Climate Action Summit 2013 held in Sydney. There were a range of presentations including one which provided a simulation of the Australian continent under projections of a 2deg C and 4 deg C. These projections colour coded parts of the continent that would be impacted by climate change and I recall the dark green shading on these images showed areas of the continent for which human life would be unsustainable. Whilst the 2 deg C scenario showed significant impacts across the country most of the populated areas seemed to avoid the worst impacts. The picture for a 4 deg C increase; however, was frightening. There were very few locations projected that would enable human life to continue to exist.

In 2014 CANWin invited Professor Will Steffan of the Climate Council to provide a talk to our members on the carbon cycle. This was an outstanding presentation backed up by peer reviewed research providing the underlying science, human-driven changes to the carbon cycle, observations of these impacts on the cycle, why fossil fuel emissions cannot be "offset" by storing carbon in land systems, vulnerabilities in the global carbon cycle, examples of climate change damage observed on a variety of countries and the carbon maths underlying his forecasts.

Professor Steffan concluded his presentation with a graph showing global warming since 1900 and forecasts based on the science though to 2100. His associate Prof Lesley Hughes then overlaid onto this picture her lifespan, the lifespan of her children and the lifespan of her grandchildren.

This was the defining moment for me personally as my lifespan is roughly equivalent to that of Professor Hughes, which then suggested that the lifespans of my children and grandchildren would be over equivalent periods.

So, my takeaway message from this presentation was that myself and my children would experience some discomfort due to global warming; however, based on the projections sighted earlier it was unlikely that my grandchildren would survive. I submit this scenario to the commissioners and all those in attendance here today for consideration and ask that this mine not be approved.

16 February 2019