

# INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION N...

Vickery Extension Project SSD 7480

Submission by Frank Moeller January 2019

## CONCERNS AND WORLD TRENDS REGARDING EXPANSION OF FOSSILE FUEL PROJECTS

It is clear from recent and current scientific and technical information that the continuation and expansion of current and proposed coal mining is not in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of the people, the environment and the future of the country and the world as we know it.

## CO2 EMISSIONS

In 1912 over 100 years ago a newspaper article suggested that the pollution caused by burning coal will raise the earth's temperature. The article in ' THE RODNEY & OTAMATEA TIMES ' August 14 1912 stated that the world was then burning 2,000,000,000 tons of coal per year and, mixed with oxygen releases 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The effect will be considerable in the next century!

Consider this! Today the world is burning over 6 billion tons of coal and releasing over 20 billion tons of CO2 into the atmosphere every year. How much CO2 we have created on the past 100 years.? THE TIME TO STOP IS NOW.

The argument that Australia's emissions would not affect the CO2 levels is a cop out. By mining coal we are simply adding to the pollution and the problem whether it is here or overseas.

## HEALTH RISK

In China there are over 600,000 suffering from Black Lung Disease. More than 30,000 cases are reported annually.

In 2017 Black Lung Disease re-emerged in Australia. It is increasingly apparent that Coal, COAL DUST, and toxic EMISSIONS from burning coal is a major cause of serious and FATAL illness in our community.

Let us not have history repeat itself. In Australia last century (1970s) we banned asbestos, over 10,000 people have died from asbestosis, health experts say that another 25,000 will die from the disease over the next 40 years. The LITIGATION and FINANCIAL COSTS are and will continue to be overwhelming.

## GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is now a well established scientific fact. Australia's average temperature has risen sharply over the past 20 years. Water temperatures around the world have risen dramatically over the past 25 years. Continuation of this trend will cause irreparable damage to the world. To stop this we all need to take comprehensive action now.

In COAL mining we should be scaling back NOT progressing new developments.

In 2008 there were 1458 mines in the USA producing 1.1 billion tons of coal. In 2017 there were only 853 mines left producing 773 million tons of coal. So nearly half of all mines have been shut down and production has decreased by over 300 million tons. In Wales and Germany the last mines were closed in 2018. IN CHINA coal production between 2014 and 2018 also dropped by over 300 million tons. We have a social and moral obligation to all Australians as well as the world and should act in unison with the other countries and major producers.

## FINANCE

Worldwide DIVESTMENT in fossil fuels has passed \$8tn dollars and is anticipated to reach \$10tn by 2020. Clearly the world's leading economies and insurance companies and banks have recognised that coal, oil and gas is no longer a sound investment. The opportunities for employment, growth and investment is with renewables energies.

## CONCLUSION

Scaling back production of coal is a logical decision. Transition from fossils fuel, in particular coal, to other energies is the way of the future. Approval of this project flies in the face of science warnings, world trend and in the interests of communities health.

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