OBJECTION TO MT PLEASANT COAL MINE EXTENSION

I object to extending the Mt Pleasant mine because it will further damage my health, property and local environment, increase climate damage, and lead to waste of natural resources.

My property at McCully's Gap already receives increased coal dust and extending this mine will increase this in the future. My family have relocated from the Upper Hunter due to the cumulative impact of coal mines irritating our lungs and increasing our colds. Extending the mine will mean we never get the chance to return to living on our property.

Coal dust builds up on vehicles, roofs, in water tanks, and on bushland which covers our property, very likely making the native plants and animals stressed and unhealthy. These impacts extend to our neighbours and the whole local environment, stressing the ecosystems and farms in addition to widespread climate changes from fossil fuel burning.

Mining this coal will result in it being burned which will increase CO2 in the atmosphere and increase climate change/global warming.

An important point is that using coal like this is a very wasteful use of resources. People might say it is being burned/used with "high efficiency", but the "energy efficiency" calculation behind this was developed for specific technical purposes not related to modern economics and resources management.

For example, burning the Mona Lisa to make hot water for cups of coffee has a thermodynamic "energy efficiency" of nearly 100% because all of the paintings calorific value achieves an increase in water temperature. The calculation ignores loss of amenity, loss of visitors, and cost of disposing of lead, mercury and other poisonous compounds from the ash, gas and smoke.

It's the same with coal. There are other ways to use the coal which provide economic/social value, eg as a substitute for oil in many manufactured materials or just leaving it in the ground to support the land surface and build on it, farm it or revegetate it to sequester carbon or protect threatened species and improve water quality.

These issues are addressed by "exergy efficiency" analysis, which is an application of thermodynamics that can account for a wider range of resource values compared to the more common "energy efficiency" analysis. See for example the 2016 publication "Trends in Austrian Resource Efficiency: An Exergy and Useful Work Analysis in Comparison to Material Use, CO2 Emissions, and Land Use" https://cordis.europa.eu/result/rcn/158389_en.html.

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