In relation to the proposed expansion of Glendell Coal Mine there are many reasons to oppose, my main concern goes out to the government’s proper usage and distribution of funds, during times of crisis it seems as though with this specific expansion that our government has become less concerned with not only the people of the world but also to the people of Australia. Whilst the LNP may wish to create an economic boom and again whilst that goal is commendable, there are many other ways to pursue that boom whilst allowing for proper environmental and sustainable management and growth. There have been several industries that have been abandoned by the government of Australia in the past in exchange for more development in the fossil fuel and mining industries. Australia was abandoned by the Ford Automotive industry in favor of other avenues, causing the loss of thousands of jobs across Australia, and without proper economic and environmental managements and development, the farming industry has been all but abandoned in Australia through drought and wildfire. Whilst these economic concerns are one opinion and fact there are many others that our government has not seemed to have considered. As a nation of the world and a member of the UN we have agreed upon an environmental management emissions goal, to reduce our countries carbon emissions by 2% by 2020 or risk closing the impending gap of a temperature increase in the earth’s atmosphere. To properly maintain Australia’s international presence and the foreseeable future of the world we must ensure that development in the fossil fuel industry is brought to a grinding stop, with proper management to ensure development of new renewable jobs in the safer sustainable industries Australia offers. Economic research suggests that there is a potential 21000+ jobs in the renewable industry in just Australia alone, where the jobs in the coal mining and coal power industry range closer to 5000+. Along with economic support entering back into the sustainable industry market and the agricultural market there would be thousands of new job positions available to support those in the fossil fuel industry and those seeking employment. There is also the case of our countries current state of emergency. With more than a third of our country in drought and roughly that same figure undergoing extreme bushfires the financial support and resources that would go into developing and funding a mine expansion are economically and morally unsound. The above reasons already suggest why these resources would not make any return with their lack of economic sustainability as coal is a limited and unrenewable resource, but they would also prove morally bankrupt when it comes to the amount of water and financial resources that would be necessary to develop a mine. During a time of drought when the Queensland rural town of Stanthrope has officially run out of water our government aims to send 96 million liters of water to assist in the development of the Adani Carmichael Mine. Whilst we are discussing a different mine in a different state, the water being sent to the Adani mine would come from the same source, when that same amount of water could have saved hundred of jobs and families in the agricultural sector the water was instead send to the fossil fuel industry which is unsustainable, especially when being compared to the agricultural sector. Also, when comparing the amount of government subsidizing and funding that would be required to properly develop the Glendell expansion to the funding being sent to the RFS and other organizations that are assisting with the current Australian Wildfire the amounts are astronomically different. Currently our government is funneling 42 billion dollars into subsidizing the fossil fuel industry and only 2 billion dollars is being given to the RFS and the fire emergency fund. With those 2 billion dollars being taken from industries and developments that need the funding, however the subsidizing of the fossil fuel industry is as unnecessary and unsustainable as the fossil fuel industry is within itself.

In conclusion the Glendell Coal Mine Expansion would be a ridiculous and immoral avenue for our government and the Independent Planning Commission to pursue whilst our country is thirsty and on fire, and whilst there are dozens of other renewable and sustainable industries coupled with thousands of potential and guaranteed jobs in those same industries that deeply require the money and resources to boom with a bigger payback than the fossil fuel industry has ever given to Australia.

I hope you take this opposition into consideration and find a more renewable and sustainable way to spend the Australian peoples hard earned tax money.

Sincerely,

Campbell Knox.