

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: R037/15 - Russell Vale Colliery Underground Expansion Project
Date: Monday, 7 December 2015 11:58:54 PM

For the attention of the Planning Assessment Commission, in particular Joe Woodward PSM, Paul Forward and Dr Andrew Stoeckel, and to whom it may concern;

I am writing to you in order to comment on the Russell Vale Colliery Underground Expansion Project. I am a young man from [REDACTED], in Wollongong. Of relevance to my comment below is the fact that I worked for over three years within the fossil fuel industry as a [REDACTED] service station attendant.

The carbon dioxide pollution associated with this coal extraction project going ahead will contribute to worsening heat waves, drought, food insecurity, extreme weather, and sea level rise. To the planning commission this may sound like strong, emotive language but stating the impacts in terms like this obscures the fact that climate change will cause the loss of human lives. I do not believe that I nor anyone else has the right to occasion death while pursuing monetary gain, it was for this reason that I left my job working for [REDACTED] upon learning of the impacts of climate change. I am certain that no amount of changing lightbulbs or planting trees will approach offsetting the petrol I sold.

The harms from coal use are expected to escalate continuously for centuries, extending to billions of people who themselves do not use this industry for profit. I would like the planning commission to note that the harms caused by the coal industry will extend over periods of time longer than the Commonwealth of Australia (wherein the planning commission derives its authority) has historically existed. There is no legitimacy to NSW planning approvals that threaten global harm. An example of this harm is the currently progressing inundation of nation-states including Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Maldives, Tonga, the Federated States of Micronesia, Antigua, Nevis and Tuvalu. Broadly speaking I reject the planning commissions authority to approve the destruction of nations. No one has a right to approve coal projects at this stage in history.

Yours in non-violence
Sam