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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: UNITED WAMBO OPEN CUT COAL MINE PROJECT, AND ASSOCIATED MODIFICATIONS
Date: Tuesday, 6 August 2019 7:17:13 PM

The Planning Secretary, Independent Planning Commission,

Today, with barely two days remaining to respond, I received notice of the Statement:

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2018/11/united-wambo-open-cut-coal-mine-project-ssd-7142/statements-from-the-commission/190802statement-from-commission.pdf>

I am somewhat confused as to how we arrived at consideration of this proposal following Judge Preston's finding against the Rocky Hill mine. That landmark finding cut through industry obfuscation to at last recognise that coal mined anywhere and burned anywhere on earth produced the same mass of Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions and was thus equally damaging in its climate impact. Only the hypothetical process of CO2 capture and storage could modify that outcome. No economically practical example of such a process exists.

Now the Independent Planning Commission has produced a Statement that seeks to bypass the Rocky Hill finding by establishing in the Export Management Plan an excuse to approve the Wambo mine, presumably as a template to be followed by an avalanche of others.

"The purpose of the Export Management Plan is to ensure that all practicable measures are adopted by the Applicant to minimise greenhouse gas emissions identified as Scope 3 emissions in the EIS."

Except in the unlikely event that coal produced in these mines is to be reburied unburned, elementary chemistry determines that it will inevitably result in proportionate emissions of greenhouse gasses, mainly CO2 or CO. No "practical measures" exist to minimise greenhouse gas emissions from using coal. The Export Management Plan is thus demonstrably futile and serves only to obfuscate climate sabotage.

Export only to countries that are "signatories to the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" (..or adopting equivalent constraints) does not guarantee any constraint on greenhouse gas emissions. **Australia is such a country** and this proposal by the NSW Independent Planning Commission demonstrates the contortions authorities will undertake to pretend compliance while evading the urgent imperatives of the Paris Agreement. That agreement is itself so far demonstrably inadequate to avert dangerous global warming, ie. less than 2 deg., as recognised by the declared COPP. "ratchet" process for tightening emission constraints in successive conferences.

The **Independent** Planning Commission must not belie its title by lending itself to the charade proposed in this Statement, evading responsibility for real climate protection. Judge Preston saw through such pretence, so do schoolchildren across the world, realising that they will soon themselves be burdened with managing the problems we are imposing on them.

Murray Scott

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