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16 April 2019

Independent Planning Commission

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**Re: Dartbrook Coal Mine Modification 7 (DA 231-7-2000 Mod 7)**

I am writing to object to the Dartbrook coal mine modification as referred to above.

I understand that Australian Pacific Coal Limited (APC) is a new, inexperienced mining company which has applied to re-open the Dartbrook Underground Mine, despite it being mothballed in 2006 by experienced miners, Anglo American, after three deaths and persistent issues with gas, spontaneous combustion and flooding.

I also understand that Australian Pacific Coal has made it clear to its shareholders that this is its first step towards the development of a 370 million tonne open cut coal mine, despite being close to productive farmland and the clean air and water of Aberdeen and the Hunter River.

It is clear that this region of NSW has a large number of existing mines already and cannot safely sustain any more. Despite this the Department of Environment's assessment is that the economic contribution of the proposed reopening of Dartbrook mine would, on balance, be in the interests of the local communities affected and the state of NSW.

I understand that there have been a number of detailed representations by experts indicating that some details in the APC's application were wrong and that it does not address many important issues, including the impacts on:

- the Special Economic Zones for the Equine and Viticulture industries;
- economic outcomes for Australia and NSW;
- local ground and surface water resources;
- noise;
- landscape; and
- Aboriginal and early colonial cultural heritage.

The Department's assessment report indicates that key community concerns expressed in the objections it received include the cumulative effects of the proposed mine on climate change and air quality. Although the assessment refers to the level of green house emissions from the operations of the proposed mine, it gives no consideration to the effects on climate change of burning the coal extracted from the mine. It appears that from the Department's point of view the existential threat to the planet posed by the effect on global warming of burning fossil fuels, particularly coal, is of no concern and does not rate a mention.

In my view the proposed mine is in the wrong place at the wrong time. No-one can afford to ignore the effects of coal mining on the future of life on earth and we need to transition away from our reliance on fossil fuels as quickly as is reasonably possible. I consider that approving the revived operation of the Dartbrook mine would be completely irresponsible and detrimental not only to the local communities affected but also to the NSW community as a whole.

I understand that the Independent Planning Commission is now required to determine APC's application and I ask that you reject it.

Yours sincerely

Maureen Kingshott