

I wish to make the following comments in response to this application:

1 The evidence is clear: extremely harmful global warming cannot now be avoided but disastrous global warming can be avoided if we rapidly reduce the burning of fossil fuels so that carbon emissions peak by 2020, are reduced by 50% by 2030 and eliminated by 2050; the world cannot burn any more than about 20% of the current known reserves of fossil fuels; there is no need to develop new coal mines or extend in any way an existing licence. Indeed, increasing the output of coal is extremely dangerous for the environment, biodiversity, ecosystems, human health and even the existence of the human species. Approval of this application further imperils the environment on which human health and existence depends and would be reckless. It will make it even less likely that Australia will meet its commitments to the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

2 The impact of the mine on groundwater and the Goulburn River also threatens the environment and human health.

3 If implemented the plans for the mine will do further damage to local communities and will produce not public benefit. On the contrary as stated above, the modification will further harm the public.

4 The judgement in the Rocky Hill Mine application should be borne in mind when the application is considered.

The only sensible decision is to reject this application.

As a secondary issue can I also register my strong objection to the 400 character limit on your online submission form. This serves no useful purpose, certainly not from a respondent's point of view anyway. What is the point of having an online submission form and having such a ridiculously small character limit, equivalent to approximately 80 words? It seems to me that this limit is intended principally to discourage submissions. I realise that I could attach a longer document but why should I have to create such a document when you have an online submission form?? I was told by one of your staff that I can make a submission by email (hence this submission) but that is not even mentioned anywhere on the online submission form. May I respectfully suggest that you reconsider your policy regarding this online submission form, and perhaps include some community representatives in your review.

Please send me an acknowledgement of receipt of this submission.

Your sincerely,

Peter Sainsbury

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