

# Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.

202 High St  
East Maitland NSW 2323  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## **Glendell Extension Modification 4**

### **Hunter Environment Lobby Inc objects to proposal**

Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.(HEL) is a regional community-based environmental organization that has been active for well over 25 years on the issues of environmental degradation, species and habitat loss, and climate change.

HEL has lodged submissions on all the major developments in this particular area in all their iterations, and is once again making a submission against this development on the grounds of health of the local community, health of the surrounding environment and greenhouse issues causing climate change.

We noted in our submission on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 that the air quality assessment failed to apply the new NEPM standards as well as failing to apply the EPA 2017 guidelines of assessing air quality. HEL noted that this will impact on the health of Hunter people who already suffer severe impacts of mining and coal fired power generation.

We note that the air quality assessment failed to identify cumulative ambient air quality at Camberwell and surrounding districts. For over the last five years the area has had critical levels of air pollution impacting on human health, if measured under the new national standards.

To make matters far worse now, the climate emergency era we are now entering is impacting on the natural environment and human health – in the form of more frequent and devastating fires in bushland as well as grazing and village lands.

Coal burning around the world is the culprit of this climate emergency, according to the bulk of the world's expert climate scientists. When we add the smoke particles here in the Valley to the already high load of particulates we live under regularly because of open cut mining, we find an even bigger impost on us and the natural environment around us.

According to Dr Michael Schien, of the Doctors for the Environment Australia. The climate emergency has arrived -'With the first degree of the predicted four degrees of warming by 2100, in the last three weeks the 11,000 kilometre fire front stretched our capacity to respond, while weeks of smoke have replaced the clean air that our forests usually provide us for free. Positive change means facing at least two major issues.'

HEL knows that this Mod 4 is a small addition to the overall plan for this mine, but that does not take away from the fact that it is smoothing the way for the huge Glendell Continuation plan.

While we are quoting this excellent source on the emerging issue of the climate emergency we find ourselves in, I'm sure those of you on the panel of the IPC have not been immune to the situation we see emerging, that is more frequent, more ferocious and widespread bushfires.

It has been a tense and frightening five months since last August of 2019 for many of us with the fires in 7 out of 8 States and Territories of Australia – the statistics are hard to grasp for many of us – and I'm sure for you Commissioners?

To see the figures of over a billion native animals killed by burning to death, not to mention the toll of human life, homes and properties and businesses has been an unacceptable overload to our senses, many people are still reeling mentally and trying to come to terms with the devastation.

Some of you Commissioners, like us have relatives, friends and work colleagues who have been gravely impacted on by fire, smoke, evacuations and more. I cannot put it more simply by saying that my son and his family and my two grand sons live a mere 25 kls from the Sydney GPO – during December they were told to get ready to evacuate their home – in the leafy Northern suburbs of Sydney, Australia's biggest city, because of danger from an intense and uncontrolled fire.

We are gratified that at long last a connection has been made by Swiss people in Switzerland between this Swiss owner of Glencore and coal and climate change and bushfires and the destruction of thousands of our iconic koalas, along with many other endangered animals, reptiles, insects and habitat.

On 13<sup>th</sup> of January last there was a protest outside the Glencore main office in Zug (I believe) which received world wide media and started the conversation in Europe between responsibility of coal owners, their coal mines, the emissions that they cause and ultimately how the Swiss people feel about those facts. See media site <https://www.nau.ch/news/schweiz/baar-zg-aktivisten-prangern-glencore-fur-australien-brande-an-65642547>

On a practical note HEL has been protesting to this department for over ten years about the allowance of final voids in the coal industry. This project leaves a final void and lowers the class of agricultural land in the final landform from class 1V or V down to class V111. This lowers the land value and productivity for future users.

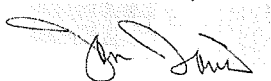
It has always been our policy to push for no final voids – if the project cannot afford to back fill them, it is not a viable project.

There is a systemic failure to administer new NEPM standards to acquisition rights especially in relation to cumulative impacts – this leaves the impacted residents and farmers in a no win situation – they have ended up with stranded assets.

A gross failure to identify water concerns for the residents on tank water, with less rain fall and climatic changes in weather patterns, is a negligent oversight that the department needs to rectify.

HEL believes that these issues plus the extra green house gas emissions escaping this latest modification make for a mandatory stop on any extra modifications for this mine.

Yours in trust,



Jan Davis President Hunter Environment Lobby Inc.