

From: [Lynette Chamas](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Application for Expansion of Tahmoor South Coal Mine
Date: Tuesday, 20 April 2021 4:43:51 PM

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a resident of the Southern Highlands and wish to express my fervent opposition to an expansion of the Tahmoor South coal mine.

An article in today's *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that US President Joe Biden has called on American diplomats around the world to challenge nations whose actions set back efforts to address climate change. Embarrassingly, this will include Australia.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that: "When countries continue to rely on coal for a significant amount of their energy, or invest in new coal factories, or allow for massive deforestation, they will hear from the United States and our partners about how harmful these actions are."

He might almost have been describing this country.

The Biden administration is putting the climate crisis at the centre of its foreign policy, putting our closest ally at odds with our own appalling lack of action on addressing climate change.

The European Union is pushing to place carbon tariffs on countries that are not making any real effort to address climate change. Germany has dismissed Angus Taylor's objections.

Clearly, this is not the time to be considering expanding a coal mine that is already past its use-by date. Coal is a stranded asset. Banks will not touch it, nor will insurance companies. It is greatly mechanised and offers little in the way of jobs. It destroys the environment and fuels the global warming that saw every state in this country battling monster bushfires last summer.

The application to expand the Tahmoor South mine should immediately be postponed, and the laws in Australia must be changed to allow planning bodies to take into account the overall impact of coal mining emissions on the environment, not merely on a project-based assessment.

As long as this does not occur, as long as mines are expanded or new ones opened, no-one will take us seriously when we talk about addressing climate change. Australia will suffer the alienation of our allies, their lack of respect and the financial barriers that will go with it. Worst of all, the nightmare of last summer will be played out again and again.

Please immediately postpone this application by the owners of the Tahmoor South

mine until such time as the law in this country is able to rightly assess the damaging effect on the environment that coal has.

Sincerely

(Mrs) Lynette Chamas

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