

IPC Committee.

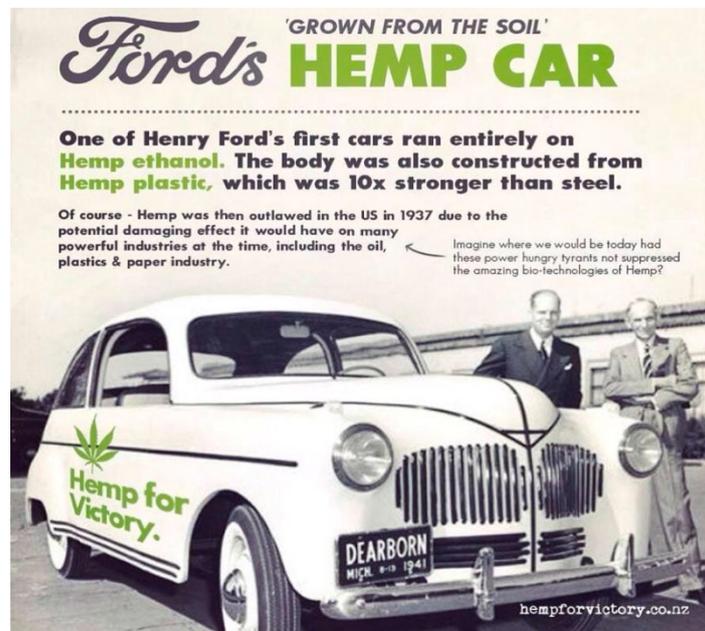
Dear Panel members,

My name is David Rowe, I'm 73 and a retired teacher/ Principal.

I am writing to request you oppose the proposed Moolarben OC 3 coal mine extension near Ulan, Wollar, Wilpinjong on the Mullarben, Murrumbidgee Creek and Goulburn River.

I presently have downsized from a 20 ha farm to a smaller farm.

I've divided the property into 1/3 for Big Scrub maintenance and reconstruction, 1/3 along our pristine river for koala and other threatened species restoration, in particular our east coast emu. 1/3 for Industrial hemp, what was once a thriving industry before the fossil fuel industry decided it could profit by pressuring politicians to confuse this environmentally friendly multi purpose product, a product that the diesel engine was designed to run on with the drug Marijuana, crippling this industry .<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> <https://cfah.org/hemp-products-list/> & <https://www.taleskiev.com/>

I do not support carbon offsets as they allow big pollution corporations, like coal, usually foreign owned, to keep expanding at a risk to all on this planet.

I draw your attention to the National Climate Risk Assessment report .

“The methodology developed for the National Assessment identified 8 key systems that support Australian society and are at risk from climate change. A system is a natural grouping of things that interact to form a unified whole.

Thinking in systems helps us to identify and understand the interconnectedness and interdependencies of different risks and systems across Australian society.

The Australian Climate Service has assessed risks across the following functional systems:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Communities – urban, regional and remote
- Defence and national security
- Economy, trade and finance
- Health and social support
- Infrastructure and the built environment
- Natural environment
- Primary industries and food

Systems thinking looks at how changes in one system can impact others through compounding and cascading impacts that amplify the effects of individual impacts and risks. For instance, the Health and social support, Primary industries and food, and Natural environment systems are interlinked, and positive or negative changes in one can significantly affect the others...”<sup>2</sup>

Your decision matters and impacts on us all. Failure to reduce and phase out fossil fuels will lead to disasters across the board as identified above.

In Nth NSW we have had the worst flooding in history. We know the next flood will come soon, but when and how big, that depends on phasing out fossil fuels and capturing carbon.

As Dr Ken Henry stated. . “He described delays in improving environmental management as “a wilful act of intergenerational bastardry”.<sup>3</sup>

*“..As has been recognised in many global forums over the past few years, the natural environment is now so damaged that we must commit to ‘nature positive’ if we are to have any confidence that future generations will have the opportunity to be as well off as we are....Yet the fact of humanity’s dependence upon the quality of the biosphere, in*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.acs.gov.au/pages/ncra-systems-risks>

<sup>3</sup> <https://theconversation.com/ken-henry-urges-nature-law-reform-after-decades-of-intergenerational-bastardry-261167>

*both social and economic dimensions, is as immutable as the laws of physics. The case for giving primacy to environmental repair is inescapable. Our future depends upon it.”<sup>4</sup>*

The IPCC & UN have called for ending fossil fuels and no more expansions.

I am concerned that any expansion would have further destructive impacts on the environment locally and on climate and environments across the globe.

**Concerns:**

1. Our rich biodiversity needs to be protected, as noted by Dr Ken Henry and scientists and citizens across the globe.
2. This biodiversity, that would be impacted on should be part of the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.
3. Any extension would be devastating for the Munghorn Gap reserve which, as you are aware is about 100 meters away. Blasting, pollution ( dust and toxic chemicals from blasting) , noise, let alone vibration and habitat loss for species.
4. Threatened species including regent honeyeaters, microbats and koala species unique to this region, which cannot be relocated, would suffer. Ground water will be impacted let alone the waters of the Moolarben Creek, Goulburn River and the fauna and Flora that rely on clean water.
  - a. We live on one of the driest continents on earth. Water is more valuable than gold or coal.
5. Biodiversity cannot be offset. In my 70 years I've seen destruction of so much of our country for no real benefit to most Australians. So much biodiversity loss and species wiped out.
6. It is estimated this project will produce over 60 million tonnes of Greenhouse gases .
7. You would be aware that NSW is not meeting its obligatory legislated targets and is still destroying our most valuable carbon capture assets, native forest.
  - a. Native Forest logging continues at great expense to tax payers for the multi millions they lose and the court fines tax payers pay out for on behalf of Forestry Corp as they continue to willfully disregard the law.
8. This coal mine extension will bring little benefit to the people and is not in the public interest.
9. Jobs: Mining is now heavily mechanized, I see no real benefit for long term employment. The major importers of coal like China and South Korea are phasing coal out.

10. I feel for our indigenous brothers, sisters and elders as they are swept aside for foreign corporations profits. Their cultural sites are lost and country is shredded. Cultural sites, that are irreplaceable will be lost of this project proceeds.

We know big money buys influence in political circles. We recently saw the is with the disastrous EPBC Act reforms. The legislation was rammed through without consideration of the 670 submissions, many opposing the legislative reforms.

Submission 25 was from 130 organizations representing millions of Australians.<sup>5</sup>

For the reasons detailed above I request, and urge the Independent Planning Commission to recommend the Moolarben OC3 coal mining extension project be refused.

Regards

David Rowe

Norm Ko 2477.

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<sup>5</sup> Link to submission 25 here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/EPRBill48P/Submissions](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/EPRBill48P/Submissions) mine was number 500.