

45 Victoria St
Waverley NSW 2024
Mob: 0412076913
Email: joegmckay@gmail.com

10 July 20115

RE: Change to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment (Significance of Resource) 2015

Dear Executive Director, Resources and Industry Policy, Department of Planning and Environment,

I write to support the proposed Amendment to remove Clause 12AA from SEEP (Mining, Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

I write from a perspective of a Christian religious who wishes to see humanity live in greater harmony with God's creation. I believe my perspective represents a significant view within the community.

There is a growing community discontent around the assessment and approval of extractive industries in NSW. Many projects while approved under law have lost the social consent of the community. Projects are being approved that seem to have brushed aside concerns on effects of existing communities and their effects on the environment.

A holistic approach to the assessment of the approval of a resource needs to be adopted. The clause is seen to have narrowed the assessment to the "resource significance" and "economic benefit of the resource" over and above other considerations I would agree with NSW EDO original assessment that the effect of the current clause 12AA has been to "endorse and reinforce the view that the approval of mining projects is 'almost inevitable', even where they have significant negative impacts on human settlements and the environment." (NSW EDO 2013 submission prior to implementation of clause)

I would draw attention to the views expressed in Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'. Care for Our Common Home* which highlights that development of a resource should not have priority but the notion of what is best for the common good, that is the "the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily" (John XXXIII, *Pacem in Terris*)

The assessment of developing a resource should not be solely based on "economic benefit" but should address the effect on culture, the effect on the "integral ecology" – the broad relationship of human beings with the surrounding material world, and have respect for the animal, plants and land forms within that environment. Any assessment should not be done with an over-optimistic view that technology can stop environmental damage or reclaim the land when extraction is complete.

I ask that Clause 12AA be removed.

All Peace and Good,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe McKay OFM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'J' and 'M'.

Br Joe McKay
Order of Friars Minor