

This draft plan is a lot of nonsense and unnecessary verbage. It is repetitious ad nauseam, no doubt to try to pad out what is something of very little significance..

It ignores the realities that stare us, who live in the Hunter Valley, in the face every day.

It talks of the “growth “of the coal industry !

Are you people on another planet ?

Haven't you realised that coal is in structural decline ?.

The price of coal is decreasing every day and with China and India committed to reduce pollution by NOT USING coal and investing in renewables, there is no way the coal price will come back to where it was in 2008.

Coal companies are going bankrupt. Coal mines in the Hunter are closing, mine workers are losing their jobs every day.

You all need to WAKE UP and see what is happening.

There needs to be a moratorium on all new coal mines and a plan for a just transition for the Hunter Valley.

Scrap plans for a fourth coal terminal in Newcastle – even the operators state it probably won't ever be built – why ? because coal is in structural decline !

Mining companies must be forced to rehabilitate the damage caused by their open cut mining activities, rather than be allowed to leave giant toxic gaping holes in the landscape for future generations to deal with.

Climate change is already changing our weather and all our lives.

Every successive month since July 2015 has been the hottest on record. February was the last hottest month and we have now passed the 2 degree critical limit.

Australia is the highest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases and the biggest exporter of carbon pollution and government just don't seem to care at all.

Government should be planning for sea-level rise, storm surges, changed rainfall patterns and provide for distributed energy, water and food systems so that our cities, suburbs and the bush can be resilient to dramatic change.

None of this is even mentioned in the “draft plan”.

The Valley needs permanent and absolute protection for the wine industry, thoroughbred industry, water resources, good farmland and villages from coal mines.

The Minerals Council seems quite adept at influencing planners and politicians to continue to provide support for the failing mining industry.

Supporting a dying industry is no way forward for the Hunter Valley.

There's mention of the value of the coal industry to the Hunter Valley. But what is the real value ?

Export dollars ?..they all go to the multinational companies that mine the coal, not us

Employment ?....the reality of mining employment in the Hunter is that it never was very big and it is declining, even Stephen Galilee of the NSW Minerals Council admits that mining is not a big employer – about 5% of the workforce in the Hunter and decreasing.

Health ? ... Coal mining damages health, it has been estimated that the Health costs of coal powered energy generation and mining in the Hunter are around \$670 million per annum, is that taken into account in planning ?..Nope.

A real plan would be looking forward to a future without fossil fuels.

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