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Online Submission

Mar 22 (22 days ago)

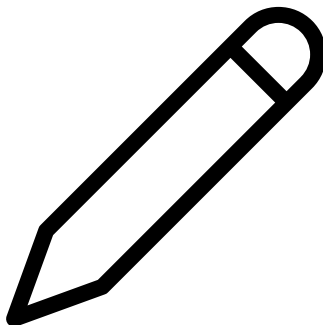
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To:

After perusing the Draft Hunter Regional Plan, I am unfortunately left with the distinct impression that you have not adequately faced the inconvenient truth (to borrow an apt phrase from Al Gore) that in order to keep our planet even somewhat habitable for future generations ALL REMAINING FOSSIL FUELS MUST BE LEFT IN THE GROUND. To continue allowing their extraction whilst paying lip service to transitioning to clean and renewable sources of energy will inevitably lead to social and economic chaos within a few decades. Rising sea levels and storm surges will flood our coastal settlements (where most of us live) and changing rainfall patterns coupled with more frequent droughts and generally higher average temperatures for longer periods of time (as we are already starting to experience) will reduce our overall levels of food production and the availability of fresh water.

To keep the Hunter Valley at all habitable in the long term you must protect and nurture local non-mining industries such as wine growing, close all existing coal mines, disallow any future ones, and immediately begin the installation of solar panels on all available rooftops as well as the construction of wind farms and geo-thermal extraction plants wherever feasible.

In the light of all the available evidence regarding the detrimental direction in which our climate is heading, and the exacerbation of this by our continued high level of carbon emissions, opening a fourth coal terminal at Newcastle or even allowing the continued working of existing mines, is tantamount to long term suicide for our planet.



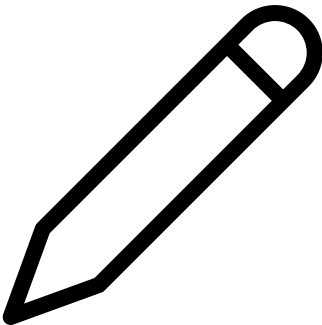
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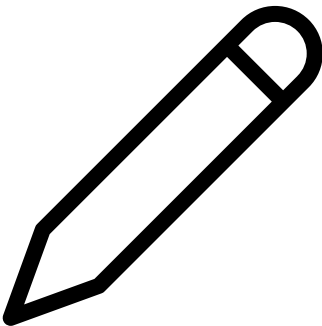
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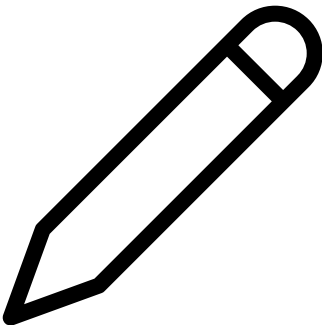
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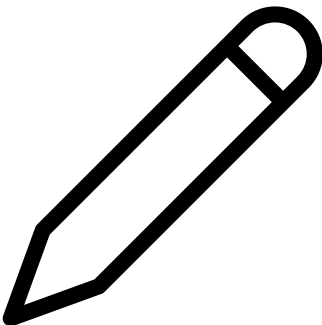
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