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## Online Submission

Mar 24 (21 days ago)

d To:

Draft Plan for Growing Hunter City.

Thank you for considering my opinions.

I do not wish to be entirely negative as there are elements in the plan which I believe to be beneficial such as supporting a greater mix of housing types and securing and rehabilitating land to improve habitat connectivity. However, I offer the following criticisms.

I strongly object to the 'Hunter City' designation. If there is anybody who likes the term I have yet to meet them.

The plan assumes that ever increasing growth is both possible and desirable and appears to make no allowance for the ramifications of meeting global warming targets and genuine maintenance and enhancement of bio-diversity and habitat. It can be argued that the strategic direction of the plan is inherently wrong. .

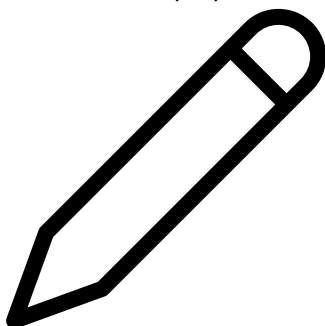
I object to taxpayer's money being used to subsidise developers through the Newcastle Mines Grouting Fund.

The document extols the benefit of the rail network servicing 'many traditional centres including Newcastle City' despite the fact that the NSW Government has removed the railway line to the city. This is an apparent contradiction.

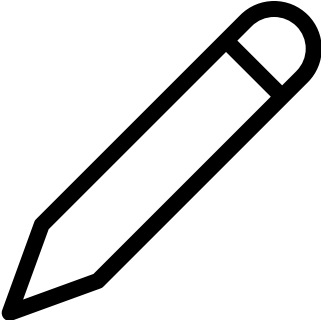
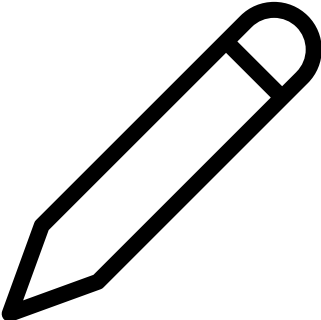
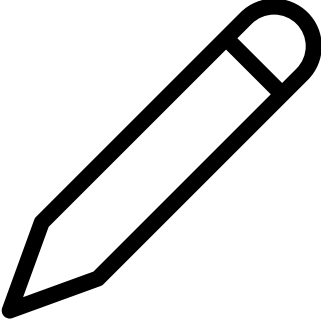
The plan is short on detail of how connections between the various urban centres will be enhanced, i.e. a workable public transport system.

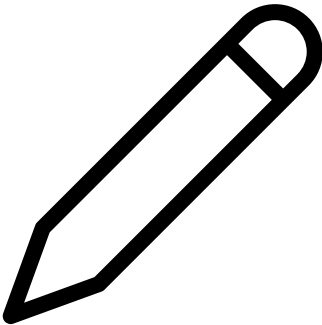
There is an over-emphasis on supporting the privatised coal port for the benefit of large corporations and private investors at the expense of the community, particularly those directly affected by coal dust, the natural environment generally, and the wetlands that will be destroyed if the proposed fourth coal terminal is ever built.

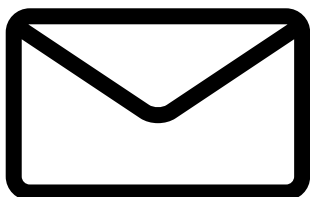
I can find no reference to the proposed changes in regional governance through Council amalgamations.



Email Details

Created	11:45 AM - Thu Mar 24, 2016	
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Priority	Medium	
Class	Comment	
Tags	No Tags	
Visibility	All	





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## Online Submission

Mar 24 (21 days ago)

d To:

Draft Hunter Regional Plan submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. I regret that I consider the document to be deeply flawed, to the point that it is beyond repair. It can be read as a manifesto for the mining and property development industries.

I suggest that the process begin again, starting with community consultation. As it stands the tone is redolent of the 'develop at all costs mentality' of the past that has caused so many problems. The document is out of date, unsustainable, and shortsighted. My only consolation is that if an attempt is made to implement it will fail.

Specifically,

It appears that little or no consideration has been given to the effects of global warming. I can see nothing to indicate how the plan seeks to reduce emissions to a point where temperature rises can be kept below two degrees.

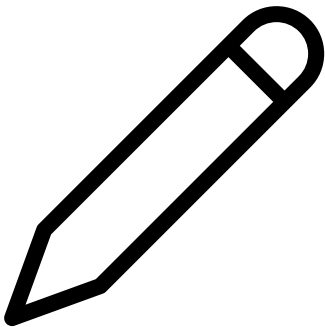
Preserving and enhancing the environment is given minimal attention. I have little faith in environmental bio-banking or offsets, and even if there are benefits they are of little assistance to the species displaced locally.

The plan directly threatens thousands of hectares of native forest by means of the coal mining titles, particularly over the State Forests

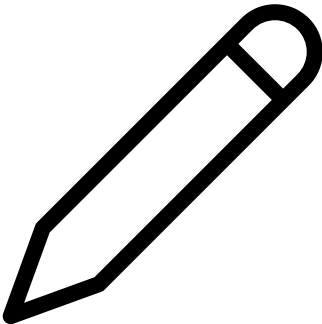
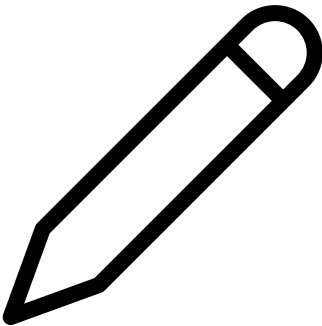
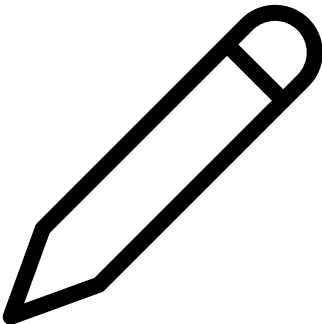
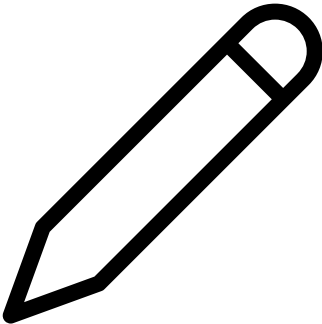
Much of the report relates to the dubious economic benefits of coal mining and coal seam gas. I see little consideration of the negative impacts of such activities on animal habitat, the environment generally, other industries, agriculture, local communities that have been established over generations, the health of residents, air quality, and water quality.

Economic considerations of take priority over everything else in the plan, even if they are dangerously aligned with declining industries. Survival of the species (ours and others) alone should make ecologically sustainable development the foundation of any the plan.

I see nothing in the plan that indicates the views of residents and the wider community. I am aware of an Australia Institute survey of 2014 that indicated that over 80 per cent of respondents did not want an expansion of the mining industry and over 40 per cent wanted a reduction. I appreciate that a single survey cannot be regarded as definitive, but my belief is that people want a transition plan away from declining fossil fuel industries to provide employment for future generations and I can find nothing in the plan to provide for that.



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Class	Comment
	
Tags	No Tags
	

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All

