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## Online Submission

Mar 24 (21 days ago)

W To:

As someone who is extremely concerned about climate change and the effects it will have on our future I am disappointed that the Plans do not address the issues of the decline of the coal industry and the need for economic restructuring that is sustainable and includes a commitment to promoting the renewable energy industry ( something that could mitigate the effects of job losses in coal as well as delivering huge economic benefits to the Hunter)

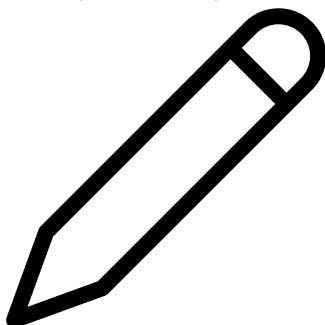
These Plans assume that coal will be the Hunter's main focus in the future completely ignoring the decline in the industry, the fact that coal mining has turned large areas of the valley into massive quarries and there are viable renewable alternatives. The Plans do not deal with final void issues when mining ceases and if contingency plans are not made now the region will be left with huge areas of uninhabitable land.

Why is there still explicit support for the coal seam gas industry despite its recognised environmental, social and economic problems?

There is, in addition, very little in the Plans that seek to protect native vegetation and critical habitat for species. The reliance on biodiversity offsets is deeply troubling as many times there is no "like for like" consideration. There should be areas set aside that preserve in perpetuity important habitats such as catchments, critical habitat and threatened species.

Another area of huge concern is the failure of the Plans to increase public transport links. With the truncation of the Newcastle rail line there has been an increase in the use of cars and these plans provide for two more road links and no additional public transport. The effects of climate change demand a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions which would be delivered with more public transport links eg the Hunter environment Lobby's proposed Hunter LinkRail through Cockle Creek-Kurri Kurri-Maitland using old mining rail corridors.

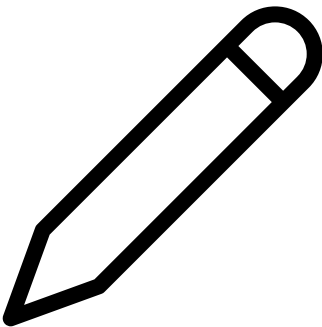
These Plans do not deliver future security for the Hunter. They rely on the "business as usual" approach which totally ignores impacts of climate change, our dismal record in providing for biodiversity, the fact that extractive industries are on the way out and that public transport links are important



## Email Details

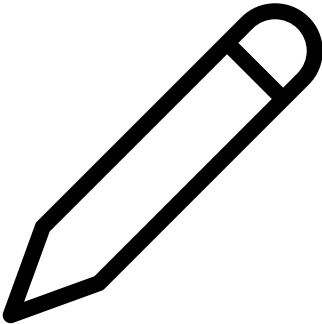
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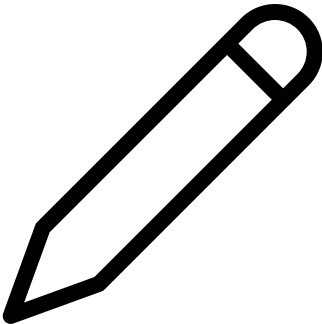
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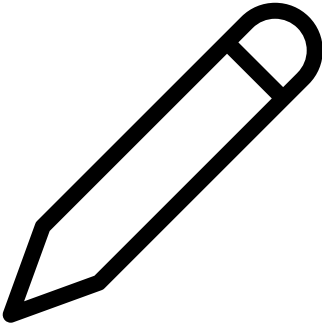
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