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Online Submission

Mar 21 (24 days ago)

I To:

Having read the Draft Hunter Regional Plan the most glaring oversight is the lack of understanding about the risks of Climate Change and how we can minimise the damage caused by our reckless continuation of "business as usual" €.

It seemed that all countries at the Paris Climate Summit understood the dire need for a cessation of mining and burning of non-renewable fossil fuels. That means we should not be continuing with subsidising and encouraging the growth of those industries that promote the burning of fossil fuels " coal or gas. Somehow the NSW Government Planning & Environment Department has decided to ignore all that in the Hunter Valley and pretend that it doesn't have anything to do with us.

It is no good pretending that this is not a huge problem. We have to move towards renewables as quickly as possible. Just because most of the coal extracted from the Hunter Valley is being exported does not mean that we are not causing the destruction of life on this planet, as we know it. We should be embarrassed not proud that we are continuing down this path, knowing full well the implications.

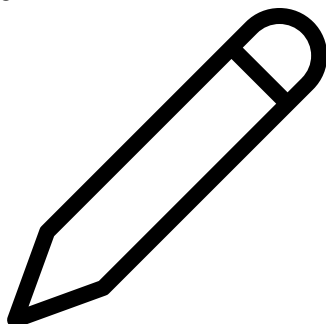
Not only does the expansion of mining in our area cause untold damage to local ecosystems and communities, it is leading to runaway climate chaos and your draft plan does nothing to change this course, it exacerbates the problem. Jobs should be provided in the renewable energy sector and the massive work in attempting to rehabilitate damaged lands that have already been raped by the coal industry.

We can be proud of the history of coal in our region but it should be history. We can no longer carry on as if it is a growth industry and good for our economy or the world's health. As well as being the main contributor to world climate change, it has been shown over and over again in the Hunter Valley that modern methods of coal mining are not compatible with local farming, tourism or rural life.

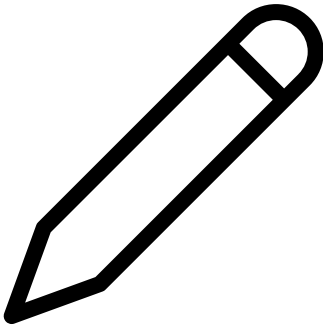
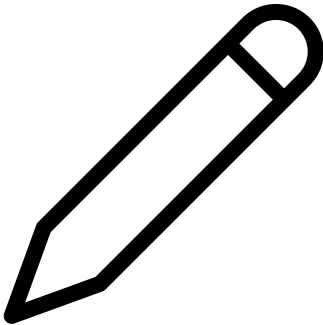
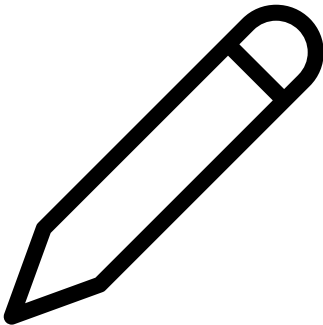
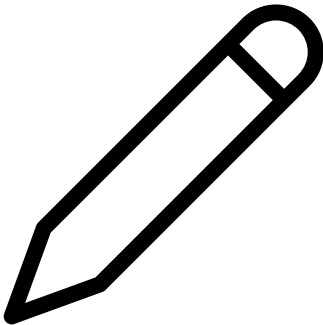
If mines were kept in check and the community had as much sway as the huge corporations that ran these mines maybe small towns and businesses would have a chance but we have seen mines swallowing up historic towns and encroaching on vineyards, equine facilities, tourism and locals.

Finally, the burning of forest waste is NOT a renewable energy source as you have implied by mentioning it under the title RENEWABLES on page 19.

Wake up and get with the modern world. Stop propping up a dying industry and give our environment a chance.



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Logged for	21/03/2016	
		
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