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## Online Submission

Feb 19

I To:

### Comments on Draft Hunter Plan

#### Economic growth.

I find it disturbing that the Plan, intended to take us out to 2036, still focuses on mining as a driver of growth. I understand that coal exports are shrinking, and that the coal industry is in structural decline. Emphasis should not be placed on mining as a source of long-term growth or wealth.

Any realistic plan for economic growth in the region must deal with the diminishing contribution of coal to our economy. We need to plan for this transition to avoid mass unemployment in mining towns and to make the most of new opportunities.

A solid plan for economic growth must ensure that the mining industry is not a drain on the State Government. We need to ensure that mine rehabilitation costs are fully funded by the mining companies and that such rehabilitation is carried out in a timely manner.

The Plan also places some reliance on CSG at Gloucester. This should be amended in light of AGL's™ conclusion that it not economically viable.

The Plan acknowledges that connectedness is important. It should emphasise that, in urban areas, public transport should be prioritised over roads. This should improve connectedness by reducing congestion. A well planned public transport system is also cost effective.

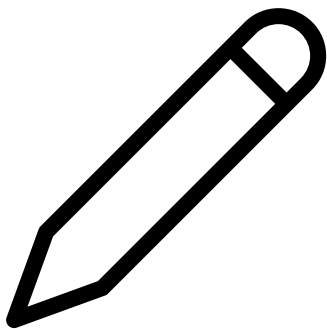
The Plan should also aim for high speed rail. I was surprised that it was not mentioned in the Plan, considering the great opportunities it would provide.

The Plan acknowledges the importance of the tourism industry. Reference should be made to opportunities for growth related to cycle tourism (incorporating the Fernleigh Track and the proposed Richmond Vale rail trail) and also eco tourism, which can both be expected to grow.

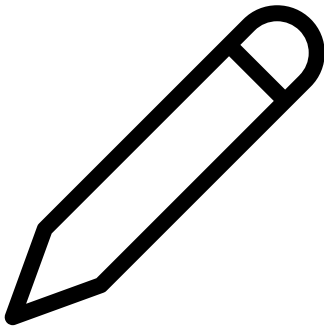
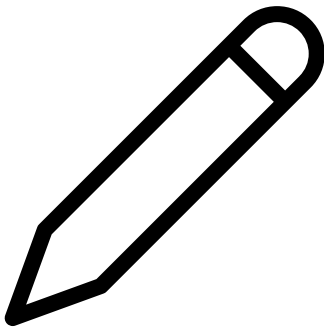
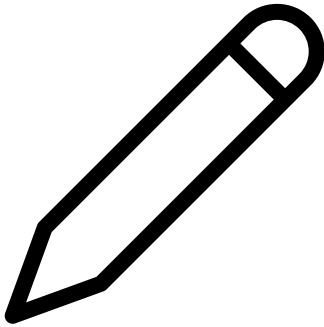
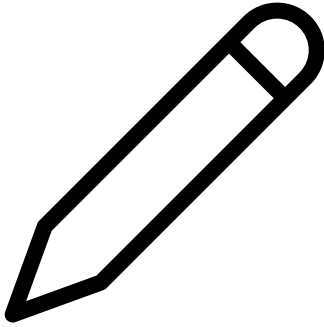
#### Protect and connect the natural environment

I am concerned that the Plan places excessive emphasis on minimising "impacts" and on "offsets". This shows a bias towards short-term gains (in economic growth) and against long-term gains (in actually preserving the natural environment and enabling long-term economic, environmental and social health and wealth).

A sensible plan must strengthen protections for the environment rather than prioritising protections for developers'™ profits.



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