



CLIMATE AND
HEALTH
ALLIANCE

PO BOX 343
Clifton Hill
VIC 3068
Victoria
23 February 2015

To:

The Hon. Mike BAIRD, MP
Premier of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
manly@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Cc

The Hon. Jillian SKINNER, MP, Minister for Health office@skinner.minister.nsw.gov.au
The Hon. Anthony John ROBERTS, Minister for Resources and Energy
lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Hon. (Pru) Prudence Jane GOWARD MP, Minister for Planning
office@goward.minister.nsw.gov.au
The Hon. (Rob) Robert Stokes MP, Minister for the Environment
office@stokes.minister.nsw.gov.au
The Hon. Gladys BEREJKLIAN MP, Minister for the Hunter
willoughby@parliament.nsw.gov.au
The Hon. Jai Travers ROWELL, MP, Minister for Mental Health
office@rowell.minister.nsw.gov.au

An Open Letter to the NSW Premier calling for an end to coal projects in the Hunter Valley

We, the undersigned, call on the NSW Government not to approve any new coal projects in the Hunter Valley.

The health of the community and the social and environmental values of the Hunter Valley are being damaged by the increasing coal production in the region.

People's health is at risk from declining air quality associated with coal mining, transportation and combustion. The illnesses and deaths associated with air pollution from coal in the region are potentially costing taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

The lives of individuals, families and communities and the social fabric of the region's villages and towns are being disrupted by the acquisition of land for coal mining.

The quality of surface and underground water and integrity of soil on important food producing land is being put at risk from pollutants associated with coal mining in the Valley.

The huge volume of greenhouse gases produced from the combustion of Hunter Valley coal is contributing to dangerous changes to the local, national and global climate, and is responsible for billions of dollars worth of harm each year globally – from damage to people's health, degradation of ecosystems, and loss of biodiversity.

The continued production of coal in the Hunter Valley prevents the development of alternative industries, that are healthier and safer for the local community and do not cause global harm.

It is time to begin to phase out coal production in the Hunter Valley and begin a transition to a safer, healthier, and secure economic future.

Signed,

Professor Tim Flannery, Climate Council, Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists
Professor Fiona Stanley, Distinguished Research Professor, School of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Western Australia

Professor Lesley Hughes, Department of Biological Sciences, Macquarie University

Professor James Hansen, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University

Mr Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia, President-elect, World Federation of Public Health Associations

Dr Jude Page, President, NSW Branch, Public Health Association of Australia

Dr Peter Tait, Convenor, Ecology and Environment Special Interest Group, Public Health Association of Australia

Dr Liz Hanna, Fellow, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, Australian National University and President, Climate and Health Alliance

Professor Colin Butler, Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Faculty of Health, University of Canberra

Associate Professor Peter Sainsbury, School of Public Health, Sydney University

Associate Professor Nick Higginbotham, University of Newcastle, NSW

Professor Kingsley Faulkner, Chair, Doctors for the Environment, Australia

Associate Professor Melissa Haswell, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

Dr Helen Redmond, Rehabilitation Physician and Conjoint Lecturer, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

Emeritus Professor David Shearman, University of Adelaide, Honorary Secretary, Doctors for the Environment, Australia

Dr George Crisp, WA Committee, Doctors for the Environment, Australia

Associate Professor Linda Selvey, School of Public Health, Curtin University

Coral Levett, President, New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association

Judith Kiejda, Assistant General Secretary, New South Wales Nurses and Midwives' Association

Associate Professor Adrian Barnett, Principal Research Fellow, Faculty of Health, Queensland University of Technology

Professor Lidia Morawska, Science and Engineering Faculty, Queensland University of Technology

Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

Dr Bret Hart, Public Health Physician, WA

Dr Brad Farrant, Senior Research Officer, Telethon Kids Institute

Dr Elizabeth Haworth, Clinical Senior Lecturer, Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania

Emily Morrice, Health and Sustainability Unit, Boden Institute, University of Sydney

Fiona Armstrong, Convenor Climate and Health Alliance, Fellow, Centre for Policy Development, Associate, Melbourne Sustainable Societies Institute, University of Melbourne