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Hon Paul Toole MP  
Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW & Minister for Police  
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Monday 2 May 2022

### **Climate Safe Future for the Central West**

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

CWEC supported the letter presented to your office on Wednesday 27 April 2022 and representatives attended the rally held to highlight the opportunities and actions needed to prevent worsening impacts of climate change in the Central West.

We noted your response on the Prime 7 news that evening that you would consider the actions in the letter. We thank you for that commitment.

We also note your concern about the community having to live with candles and blankets in the dark if there is a transition away from coal to renewable energy. There is no available evidence that this would be the case. In fact, this scenario is more likely to occur because of increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change.

We are sure, furthermore, that the people who have lost their houses and family members due to increasing extreme bushfires and floods would beg to differ. Also, the farmers who have lost stock, infrastructure, and income during the recent hardest drought on record, as well as in the extreme bushfires and flood events in the Central West.

The transition to renewable energy has already commenced and there are many opportunities for increased investment & jobs growth in our region. CWEC supports the following actions outlined in the attached letter and requests a reply to this correspondence:

**Action needed:**

1. Do not approve new coal exploration area applications in Mudgee District:
  - Wilpinjong Coal ELA 6415 – 1632 ha farming land surrounding Wollar village
  - Coolah South ELA 6253 – 4150 ha north of Ulan mine
2. Do not proceed with Ganguddy-Kelgoola potential release area near Rylstone
3. Do not approve coal mine expansions in the Western Coalfields region:
  - Angus Place West expansion – Lithgow – additional 16 mt coal
  - Moolarben Mine open cut expansion – Mudgee - additional 40 mt coal
  - Ulan Mine underground expansion – Mudgee - proposed large new mine to the west
4. Extend the Central West Renewable Energy Zone to include Orange, Bathurst, and Lithgow

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "C M Kinross".

President