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NSW 2800
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The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Monday 30 September 2019

Dear Premier,

Bylong Coal Mine determination and Scope 3 emissions

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 commends the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for determining a rejection of the proposed greenfield Bylong Coal Mine in our region.

The protection of prime agricultural land and productive ground water sources is critical as the impact of climate change is being felt in central west NSW.

We also commend the IPC for rejecting the Bylong Coal Mine on the grounds of increased greenhouse gas emissions at a time when global leaders are working to reduce the volume of carbon in the earth's atmosphere.

The intensity of the current drought, threatening water supply to inland towns and cities in our region such as Bathurst, Orange and particularly Dubbo, is a foretaste of the future if climate change is not addressed.

NSW has a policy to manage greenhouse gas emissions. This policy will not be met if increased coal production continues.

The consideration of Scope 3 emissions in determining state significant coal mine projects is imperative and in line with the recent Rocky Hill decision in the NSW Land and Environment Court.

The large number of school children and supportive adults who joined the climate strike in central west towns and cities on Friday 20 September is a testament that rural and regional people want positive policies to address climate change.

The IPC is to be commended for considering intergenerational equity, as required by the principles of ecologically sustainable development. Our children deserve and are now demanding a safe future.

NSW must maintain a policy direction for consideration of Scope 3 emissions, in line with the Rocky Hill decision, for decision-makers determining coal mine proposals.

The economic cost of extreme weather events driven by a rapidly changing climate, far outweigh any short term economic benefits from mining new coal reserves.

We look forward to the NSW maintaining a policy that considers the implication of large increases in greenhouse gas emissions from the use of coal and other fossil fuels.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Cilla Kinross", is displayed on a light-colored, textured background.

Cilla Kinross
President