



Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

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22nd June 2006

The Hon. Ian Macdonald

Minister for Natural Resources, Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Mineral Resources

Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower,

1 Farrer Place,

Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: your reply to our email of 11th May 2006; MP 106/2711 MF 06/1826

In an effort to have your response seen by all signatories we will publish it on our website.

Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle is deeply concerned with the impacts greenhouse gases (mainly CO₂) will have on the future vitality of the planet.

As such we find that your commitment to maintaining the current coal-fired electricity industry and, ipso facto, the burgeoning coal mining industry, a most irresponsible position.

When one adds the potential CO₂ emitted from NSW's 51 coal mines to the CO₂ emitted from the diesel used in blasting and extraction (these mines function 24 hours per day, 7 days per week), and considers the longevity of these mines, 25 to 40 years, and how many more your Government is currently considering, the mind boggles at the quantity of CO₂ that NSW coal mines alone will contribute to the environmental catastrophe of global warming.

While most of the coal is destined for power stations in the northern hemisphere, it would be churlish of us to ignore the impacts those CO₂ emissions will have. Our atmosphere is global after all.

The litany of "steps to reduce emissions" ring hollow in the face of your support for the flourishing fossil fuel industry.

Carbon credit trading ("certificates worth 166,005 tonnes of CO₂ in 2004") is hardly going to significantly address any of the impacts that the 120 million tonnes of coal (that's 360 million tonnes of CO₂ when fully combusted) exported through the ports of Newcastle, by 2010, will have on the global climate.

The "substantial investment" in coal-fired power generation does not translate to increased employment. A contribution of just ten cents per tonne of coal exported would yield about \$8 million a year to help finance the transition away from coal to sustainable industries and jobs. BHP Billiton, Xstrata, Rio Tinto and Anglo-American have commitment to profit-making outside of Australia.

The investment in technologies to capture and store CO₂ underground (which will never meet the volumes of emissions) would be better spent on geothermal technology, solar and wind. All potentially more viable renewable energy sources given committed investment.

Most residents, especially parents, are easily able to understand the links and embrace energy efficient practices in their homes. The main practice is of course choosing a clean, renewable fuel source from their energy providers. Here in Balmain and Rozelle, we are informing residents about the link between burning fossil fuels, CO₂ emissions and global warming.

It is truly alarming to *Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle* that you are treating the problem of greenhouse gas emissions and the consequences of global warming with such minimal measures while allowing enormous profits from coal to leave Australia without any industry responsibility to invest into carbon neutral energy industries.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Lewis

On behalf of
Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle Inc.

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c.c. Lindsay Gilligan, A/Deputy Director-General, Mineral Resources