



Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle

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The Hon. Morris Iemma, Premier
Treasurer, Minister for Citizenship
Level 39 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

RE: your reply to our email dated 11th May 2006; ref GHO/00018

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 suggestions of "actions" and "initiatives" an inadequate response in light of the fact that your government has approved many new coal "projects" and is considering yet another coal-fired power station (near Ulan).

Just one of these coal "projects" (Wilpinjong) will produce enough coal, annually, to emit 10 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere when combusted. This is equal to emissions of about 1 million households every year. The "life" of Wilpinjong is anticipated to be 25 years.

Another, Anvill Hill, has reserves of about 157 million tonnes of coal.

The ports at Newcastle are preparing for an increase of coal exports by over 65% in the next 5 years. That's 120 million tonnes of coal in 2010, equivalent to 360 million tonnes of CO₂ when combusted fully.

When one adds 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 are contributing to global warming.

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

Increased CO₂ emissions is the problem we are all responsible for.

Here in Balmain and Rozelle, we are informing residents about the link between burning fossil fuels, CO₂ emissions and global warming.

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.

Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle believes that, for the future of the planet, we need to reject fossil fuels as an energy source.

Paradoxically, your government obviously supports a flourishing fossil fuel industry.

Your "initiatives", implementation of the default 10 per cent Green Power policy, extension of the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme to 2020 and establishment of an Energy Savings Fund are hardly going to significantly address any of the impacts that the NSW coal industry is having on the global climate.

While the human and environmental costs of the coal industry are beginning to mount and be seen by ordinary residents and businesses, your government continues to reap hundreds of millions of dollars a year without any practical commitment to a clean, renewable energy industry.

We look forward to hearing some useful and realistic actions that your government will take to assist households in their uptake of clean renewable energy options.

Yours faithfully,

Sue Lewis

On behalf of
Climate Change Balmain-Rozelle Inc.