

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: IPC Review. Response.
Date: Monday, 18 November 2019 3:05:03 PM

To the Government of NSW Re: Independent Planning Commission, review of justification, purpose and value.

In mounting this Inquiry at all, I perceive that the Government has already answered the question it has raised.

It is entirely circular: to ensure probity and public good in a democracy, there is always a need for an independent check on the partnership between Government, Public Service and its contributing influences. By questioning that, the Government automatically puts in question its own actions, motives and standards. Further, in allowing the Minerals Council to push this, that case rests; it looks like corruption hiding in open view.

This month's COALFACE needs to be read carefully by all of you. It is, routinely, propaganda for coal, but the issue November Vol 4 No.2 outdoes itself. Actually threatening and frightening to its workers. Is our Government really so weak it can't stand up against that bullying rubbish? By having to send this to the Treasury, rather than to a seat of ethics and justice in government, it feels as if ethics and justice are now measured in money values. It is claimed that it's all in the interests of "the public good" and "the public interest". Sorry, just no evidence for that.

Justice and commonsense are priceless, but we in seeking it must bear our own costs, while Government uses our own taxes to oppose us. Now it has reached the point where it can it not even be bothered to afford our defeat costs, using our own money?

We see this all the time in the 'public consultation' process. And yet we participate in it as our only practical alternative.

It costs Government very little to provide an IPC process, compared with the costs, time, impacts etc, borne by those informing that IPC.

If we pay Public Servants well to read our submissions, this could never be considered a waste were the information respectfully used towards wise and economical decision-making, truly in the public interest. It is a vital investment.

Only if the whole show were a sham to tick a box, could the process be legitimately regarded as a 'waste' by those in Government whose decision might be made for them, by Mining interests, even before the process was begun for each project. So, do you think it a 'waste' then?

So Government reveals falsity in agreeing to this Review. Particularly so, when we have knowledge and attitudes available to us, using data from Ross Garnaut, from current science, from so many overseas examples, and from our very submissions to IPC. They are written by people on the ground who know the country. There is effective, thorough research available which deserves to be used for the public good, by Governments.

By comparison we see the embarrassingly simplistic slogans pushed by the mining industry towards engineering the ruin of our country: its true economy, air, water, future healthy livelihoods, food production, tourism, wellbeing and reputation.

[REDACTED] in COALFACE, pretends that digging rock is the only job there is. He treats the miners like fodder for profit.. and the Government too maybe? He is emboldened now, since he sees he might get to destroy even the very few informed decisions made (in the obvious public interest) by the IPC against the stream of pro-coal 'recommendations' from the obviously warped Department of Planning.. if only he bullies enough. He knows that the DoP has long ago abandoned any ideals of real planning or public good, in order to keep its own jobs. He uses any sob story he can, to ensure ongoing profits for overseas interests. He is, it seems, being helped

by a Government wanting only revenues and next-votes from 'workers' who, (he assures Govt), are limited to his economic monoculture. This is faulty throughout, but Government seems oblivious.

It is becoming clear that no impacts suffered by people, animals, land and country will turn this Government from its corruption by lobbyists. Otherwise, there would be no new coal allowed.

Instead we'd see new clean initiatives; certainty in the operation of healthy landuses.

We see the failure echoed in the Federal attitude to the impacts of coal burning on the world; ignorance and platitudes even as we turn to cinder.

To save everything good which is left to us, (versus no future for the children of our time) we need the following:

The IPC should stay, be better resourced, and be more independent than it is now, by a long way. It should be given a flat table instead of one tipped towards a burning coalhole. It needs time, and panels of advisors to bring current international science into decisions. It should have direction over the EPA for implementation of conditions of consent, which should be policed.. and with consequences. It should be able to use commonsense.. eg when a Miner hasn't any money or expertise to mine at all let alone safely, he should not be given approval (Dartbrook).

IPC should take into account the costs of future potential losses (economic, social, ecological) to zones destroyed by a proposed mine. It should be able to consider the public good, public health, and universal cultural heritage, above foreign profits.. as an agreed priority.

ICAC at a National level should reinstate integrity in the procedures of planning approval in all states, particularly NSW and Queensland.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this Review.

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