

# National Statement on Coal Power Station Proposals

The signatories to this statement seek a national moratorium on:

- the construction of five new coal fired power station proposals; and
- modifications to existing coal power stations that increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Until such a moratorium is declared by Commonwealth and State governments, we will oppose these new coal power proposals in Australia.



Climate Action Network Australia



## Why oppose new coal fired power?

There are five new coal power stations on the immediate horizon, and one mine extension which would allow Australia's most polluting coal power station to operate for an extra five years (see Table 1 below).

**These projects would increase the coal power sector's 2002 emission levels by 20%,<sup>1</sup> or Australia's total 2002 emissions by 6.3%<sup>2</sup> - at a time when we should be planning for at least a 60% reduction in Australia's emissions by 2050.**

**In simple terms, the proposals would pump out 764.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution over their lifetime<sup>3</sup> - equivalent to putting another 8.5 million cars onto Australian roads.**

- Climate change is happening now and will reach dangerous levels if we do not take urgent and significant action. "Deep cuts" in emissions must be made globally in order to stabilise our global climate. Our share of the global task requires at least a 60% reduction in Australia's emissions by 2050. The UK has already committed to achieving a similar goal.<sup>4</sup>
- Coal power is Australia's largest greenhouse polluter. Obviously, if Australia is to make deep cuts in emissions, the coal power industry will have to do its fair share. Instead, the industry has spent the past decade ignoring its responsibilities. According to the Australian Greenhouse Office, emissions from electricity generation (largely coal)<sup>5</sup> increased 40.8% between 1990 to 2002.



TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE



Tasmanian Environment Centre Inc.



**Table 1: Current proposals for new coal power**

State	Title and description	Projected CO <sub>2</sub> emissions (Mt/year) <sup>6</sup>	Equivalent number of cars on the road <sup>7</sup>
NSW	Redbank 2: 151 MW Coal tailings fired power station <sup>8</sup>	1.2	300,000
NSW	Project Waratah (Ulan): 1000 MW Coal fired power station	6.3-7.2	1.6-1.8 Million
Qld	Kogan Creek: 750MW Coal fired power station	6.0-7.0	1.5-1.75 Million
Vic	Hazelwood expansion	17.7 (for 5 years)	4.4 Million
WA	Blue Waters: 200 MW Coal fired power station	1.0-1.2	250,000-300,000
WA	Western Power 300 MW power procurement process	1.9 -2.1	480,000-530,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>34.1-36.4 MT/year</b>	<b>8.6-9.1 Million Cars</b>

- The coal power industry now wants to go even further in the wrong direction. These power proposals are likely to be followed by more coal power projects with very high emissions.<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, the Australian Greenhouse Office has estimated that by 2020 emissions from the stationary energy sector (largely electricity from coal) could increase by a staggering 93% from 1990 levels, unless urgent steps are taken.<sup>10</sup>
- New renewable power generation could provide 5 times more jobs than coal per unit of energy, mostly in regional areas.<sup>11</sup> New coal power would replace only a fraction of the jobs that the coal industry has cut since the 1980s.<sup>12</sup>
- It has been suggested that, in the future, CO<sub>2</sub> pollution from coal power stations might be able to be captured, compressed and pumped underground for storage. The permanence, safety and cost-effectiveness of underground storage is still to be proven. None of the current coal power proposals plan to use this technology.
- Numerous studies show that it is possible to achieve a significant reduction in the greenhouse emissions from the power sector through the following measures:<sup>13</sup>
  1. Demand management and energy efficiency;
  2. Where new generation is required, renewables (including sustainable biomass and wind) should take priority;
  3. Cogeneration and combined cycle gas used as a transition fuel within the framework of a 60% reduction in emissions by 2050.

### **Further information**

Please visit the following website:

[www.cana.net.au/nomorepollutingpower](http://www.cana.net.au/nomorepollutingpower)

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## References

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<sup>1</sup> Coal power was responsible for 182 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution in 2002. The five new proposals would add 18.7 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere each year, increasing to 36.4 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for the 5 years the mine extensions at Hazelwood was in operation. In total this would amount to a 19% increase in emissions from the coal power sector.

<sup>2</sup> Australia's total emissions in 2002 were 550 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. The five new coal power stations would add a further 3% annually to this total, increasing to 6.3% annually with the Hazelwood mine extension included.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated as follows: 676 Mt for the 5 new power stations (assuming they have an economic life of 40 years each) + Hazelwood (5 years x 17.7 Mt = 88.5Mt).

<sup>4</sup> *Our Energy Future – Creating a Low Carbon Economy*, UK Energy White Paper, February 2003.

<sup>5</sup> 87.5% of fuel used was coal. See *National Greenhouse Inventory 2002*, AGO, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> Emissions for Project Waratah and WA baseload proposal calculated as follows: installed capacity x 24 hrs/day x 365 days/year x 0.9 (assuming 10% time idle due to maintenance or low demand) x either (a) an emissions intensity of 0.8tCO<sub>2</sub>e/MWh for super-critical black coal or (b) 0.912tCO<sub>2</sub>e/MWh for sub-critical black coal power stations. Emissions for Bluewaters and Redbank 2 as disclosed in relevant EIS reports. Calculation methodology for Kogan Creek can be provided upon request.

<sup>7</sup> Car equivalents: The average distance driven per year is generally assumed to be 15,000 km and the average fuel consumption is estimated in the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI) to be about 12 litres per 100 km which is equivalent to 150x12 = 1800 litres per year. According to the NGGI Workbook 3.1, each litre of automotive gasoline (i.e. petrol) burnt in an average car produces 2.244 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. Therefore the average car produces about 4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Therefore 1 Mt of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by a power station per year is equivalent to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 0.25 million (250,000) cars per year.

<sup>8</sup> The Redbank 2 proposal was rejected by the NSW Government in October 2003, but is currently the subject of an appeal in the NSW Land & Environment Court.

<sup>9</sup> There are three other coal power station projects proposed in Victoria - APEL (gasification, liquefaction and geosequestration), HRL (gasification) and Loy Yang A ('hybrid repowering'). In NSW, the capacity of the Mt Piper conventional coal-fired power station may be doubled. Proposals for coal power have also been raised at Charters Towers/Pentland (Qld).

<sup>10</sup> See the *2001 National Greenhouse Gas Inventory* (Australian Greenhouse Office, 2003) and [www.greenhouse.gov.au/projections/pubs/stationaryenergy2003.pdf](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/projections/pubs/stationaryenergy2003.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [to be released] Diesendorf, Mark, *Comparison of employment in coal and renewable electricity generation industries*, 2004.

<sup>12</sup> For example, employment in coal mining in Australia dropped by 45% between 1987 and 2002 (see note 12 for further information).

<sup>13</sup> For example, the recent study *A Clean Energy Future for Australia* maps out how to achieve a 50% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Australian power sector by 2040. A key assumption for meeting this target is that no new conventional coal fired power stations are built. Energy Strategies, *A Clean Energy Future for Australia*, 2003, (prepared for the Clean Energy Future Group). See also: *Long Term Greenhouse Gas Scenarios: A pilot study of how Australia can achieve deep cuts in emissions*, The Australia Institute, 2002 and *The Real Way Forward*, CANA & Ors, 2004.