



**Anvil Hill Project Watch Assoc**  
*Protecting and Preserving our Wybong  
Community and the Environment*



Rising Tide Newcastle

## **Drawing a line in the sand**

### **Anvil Hill Alliance to tackle Hunter Valley coal**

**Sydney, Tuesday March 7, 2006** A groundbreaking local and global alliance will be launched today to confront the Hunter Valley's role in fuelling climate change head on by stopping the further expansion of the coal industry. The massive proposed Anvil Hill coal mine near Muswellbrook is a lynchpin in that expansion and forms the iconic heart of the Alliance's work.

The Anvil Hill Alliance, to be officially launched at NSW Parliament House this morning, brings together local residents, current and former coal miners, environmental activists from the Hunter Valley and beyond, and Hunter businesses such as Yarraman Vineyards.

The Alliance calls on the NSW Government to stop the Anvil Hill mine as a first step in stopping the expansion of the Hunter Valley coal industry and averting a climate disaster. If approved, Anvil Hill would produce at least 9 million tonnes of coal a year and its development is a key driver for the massive infrastructure upgrades that will see the capacity of Newcastle – already the world's largest coal export port – increase by over 50%.

Christine Phelps of Anvil Hill Project Watch Association said "Anvil Hill is called the Hunter Ark by locals because of its rich biodiversity. That biodiversity will be destroyed by the mine, as will plants and animals across NSW because of the greenhouse pollution that Anvil Hill will produce if it is allowed to go ahead."

Graham Brown, a Hunter coal miner who took annual leave to attend today's launch, said "The time has come for the Hunter Valley to decide whether it wants to keep being a global polluter. My hope is that we can create another future where my family and colleagues will have the opportunity to work in jobs that protect the environment instead of harming it."

Steve Phillips, of Rising Tide Newcastle, said "The Hunter Valley Coal Chain is expanding at every link. New rail infrastructure, a new coal loader, and devastating new open-cut coal mines like the one proposed for Anvil Hill, are all part of a massive increase in the Hunter's contribution to global climate chaos. The fate of the world is in our hands – it's time to break the Hunter Valley Coal Chain."

Ben Pearson, Greenpeace energy campaigner, said "If we are to tackle climate change, we must quit coal and move to clean energy. Kim Beazley, announcing his party's greenhouse blueprint this morning, must detail how he will stop State Labor fuelling climate chaos in the Hunter if he expects his other greenhouse policies to be taken seriously. He must acknowledge that, if Anvil Hill goes ahead, and Newcastle port expands by 50%, no other policies will matter."

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