



# City council opposed to coal mine at Anvil Hill

By FRANK SULLIVAN

UPPER Hunter residents fighting an open-cut coal mine proposed for Anvil Hill have gained an unlikely ally in the form of a Sydney council.

Waverley Council voted last week to express its opposition to the development of new coal mines in the Hunter Valley, in particular at Anvil Hill.

The vote was taken in light of concerns about global warming and the need for urgent reductions in greenhouse emissions.

The council expressed its concerns at any national or international expansion in coal-fired power station energy production.

It called on the NSW Government to introduce significant mandatory renewable energy targets that would lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions and the creation of

many new jobs.

The council has deferred writing to the NSW Minister for Planning to urge him to reject the application for a new coal mine at Anvil Hill, pending further discussions with the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and mining representatives.

The council will also approach the Labor MP for Coogee, Paul Pearce, and Opposition Leader and Vaucluse MP Peter Debnam for their support.

Greenpeace campaigner Ben Pearson said the vote was the result of successful Greenpeace lobbying and, significantly, had the support of Labor councillors.

"The eastern suburbs of Sydney are beginning to realise what global warming and rising sea levels will mean to them," Mr Pearson said.

"We'll now be approaching other coastal councils in Sydney for their support as well.

"It's interesting to note also that Muswellbrook Council has leaked a report expressing reservations about the developer's plans for the Anvil Hill mine."

A Centennial Coal spokesman said the company had spent more than two years in research, technical studies, community consultation and planning, preparing the environmental assessment for the Anvil Hill project.

"Ninety-five per cent of the state's electricity is generated by coal-fired power stations, and it's naive to assume there will be no new coal mines in the future," he said.

"It's unfortunate Waverley councillors did not take the time to inform themselves about the project before vot-

ing on such a motion."

Anvil Hill Project Watch Association president Chris Phelps said Waverley's decision was extremely gratifying and would be, she hoped, the first of many.

"We'd like to issue invitations to all the councils from up here down to Newcastle to follow suit," she said.

Environmentalist David Suzuki will host a fundraising evening in Sydney on September 4 to help mount a legal challenge against the mine.

Tickets for the evening, at the Enmore Theatre, will be \$71, and concession \$61. It will be Dr Suzuki's only fundraising event during his tour of Australia, which is to promote his autobiography.

He will visit Newcastle for a book launch on September 15.