

Submission to EPA Victoria on brown coal-fired power station licence reviews in 2018

Dear EPA Victoria,

Healthy Futures is an organisation of health professionals and community members working to limit the health impacts of pollution. We are deeply concerned about the health impacts of toxic pollutants from Victoria's coal-fired power stations. The health impacts of coal pollution have been well described by the Physicians for Social Responsibility in the United States (1) amongst others. In the Victorian context the Hazelwood power station was estimated to cause eighteen premature deaths per year in the Gippsland region prior to its closure (2). Given Loy Yang A, Loy Yang B and Yallourn produce comparable levels of toxic pollutants (3) we are concerned that these power stations may be having similarly significant adverse health impacts on local populations. These power stations also produce over a third of Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions (4,5). These must be rapidly curtailed in order to limit devastating climate-related health impacts on Australians (6-8) and people around the world (9). Accordingly we request that renewal of licences for Victoria's coal-fired power stations this year is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Annual toxic emission limits no higher than those set last year for existing coal-fired power stations of similar size in the European Union - specifically, 175 mg/Nm³ of NO_x, 100 mg/Nm³ of carbon monoxide, 130 mg/Nm³ of sulfur dioxide, 5 mg/Nm³ of hydrochloric acid, 3 mg/Nm³ of hydrofluoric acid, 8 mg/Nm³ of particulate matter and 7 µg/Nm³ of mercury (10)
- 2) Installation of sulfur dioxide scrubbers, selective catalytic reduction methods to reduce nitrous oxides and bag/fabric filters, or as many of the above as technically possible
- 3) Continuous monitoring of emissions levels for all pollutants listed in point 1) with real-time online publication of this data
- 4) Deep, immediate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, at the very least to levels in keeping with Victoria's emissions reduction targets, and ideally deeper than this in order to further reduce future health impacts of climate change

Thank you for considering our submission.

To discuss this submission please contact Dr Harry Jennens at

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