

OBJECTION TO TRINITY POINT DEVELOPMENT SSD27028161

(Lake Macquarie)

DEVELOPER: JOHNSON PROPERTY GROUP

To whom it may concern...

Wow, wow, wow, haven't we covered all the points and ticked the imaginary boxes in the 181 page document of this so called State Significant Development. A development more suited for a Jurassic Park film set or something you would find in Dubai. Totally out of context with any proposed future development for Lake Macquarie, an out of control development and certainly not understanding the externalities.

NSW Planning has learnt nothing over the past decades on building in flood effected regions. They may have had a reason or excuse for the Northern Rivers or other areas in NSW and beyond, as they new very little about how nature works. Yet today to accept this proposal that says nothing but how fantastic it will be and ignores the environmental and human health risks amounts to an irresponsible State Government, a cash strapped Local Government and a greedy developer with a massive ego.

To suggest that this current proposal has an Environmental Impact Statement is possibly criminal and if accepted by the authorities it possible may become a criminal act. The EPA's own correspondence **"Working together"** states **"There is an opportunity to establish a new baseline of information on the environmental condition of the lake in the vicinity of the power station"**. This is obviously what they mean about new opportunities by ignoring the required investigations, conforming to the Protection of the Environment Acts and publishing their findings, yet it does nothing and says nothing about how it will improve the lake or its surrounds.

It ignores the fact that the region is in close proximity to both Vales Point and Eraring Power Stations and their coal ash dams. The impacts they have been allowed to perform because they pay for a license to pollute. Refer to the HCEC "Out of the Ashes" reports 1 & 2 for heavy metal contamination of both the land and marine environment.

Only 2.5 Km north of Vales Point power station and 7 Km south of Eraring power station, also being no more than 5 Km from the proposed expansion of the Chain Valley and Mannering coal mines under the lake with a reported and possible 780 mm subsidence factor.

Around the next headland is the Myuna Bay Sport and Recreation facility which was closed in late 2019 due to the event of seismic activity possibly destroying the ash dam wall with the ash slurry pouring over the many children at events and then into the lake. Three years later the problem has not been rectified, as I sit on the Eraring Community Consultative Committee specifically looking into the stability of the dam wall.

2.

Major fish kills have recently been a regular occurrence with the EPA having little understanding of gases rising from the depth of the lake.



Eagle rays and fish washed up on shore in 2022

Community health conditions in the region of the proposed development has had the Central Coast and Hunter New England Public Health Units, the NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Planning, Industry and Environment and the EPA , working with local environmental groups who have raised many issues without any objection.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics National Health Survey 2017-2018 found that suburbs such as those in close proximity to the proposed development had alarming at risk populations for three or more chronic health conditions.

- Lake Munmorah –Manning Park @ 16.9%, **Asthma @15.3%**
- Wangi Wangi – Rathmines @ 14.1%, **Asthma @ 13.2%**
- Bonnells Bay – Silverwater @ 13.6% of the population, **Asthma @13.2%**
- Morisset – Cooranbong @ 13.5%, **Asthma @ 12.8%.**

3.

Air quality contributes to many health issues whilst coal ash is blown over the suburbs and lake mixed with a concoction of illegally dumped asbestos and un-named general waste.



Vales Point ash dam:

Both Vales Point power station and Eraring Ash power station and their dams contribute to the environmental degradation and health conditions of surrounding suburbs. There is no dispute that this has occurred for at least four decades and the oversight of this was well documented during the Legislative Council Public Works Committee (Report 4 March 2021) with its sixteen conditions required, with very few having been completed.

Recommendation No 6 states: “ That NSW Health immediately undertake an epidemiological assessment of the health of residents near coal ash dams to establish the health impacts of coal ash and publish by 31 December 2022, this also has not been completed.

Page 32 (3.66) of the Inquiry recommendations, the unanimous and bipartisan committee states “ **The Committee agrees with the inquiry participants that little research, if any, has been conducted on the impacts and long term consequences in relation to the health of communities residing near coal ash dams. We are disappointed with the response by the NSW EPA and NSW Health to community concerns about a potential link between the circulation of additional metals in the air and waterways, and impacts on health outcomes for the community. This response, in conjunction with the lack of research conducted to date on this matter, demonstrates a complete disregard by the government towards the health of its citizens**”.

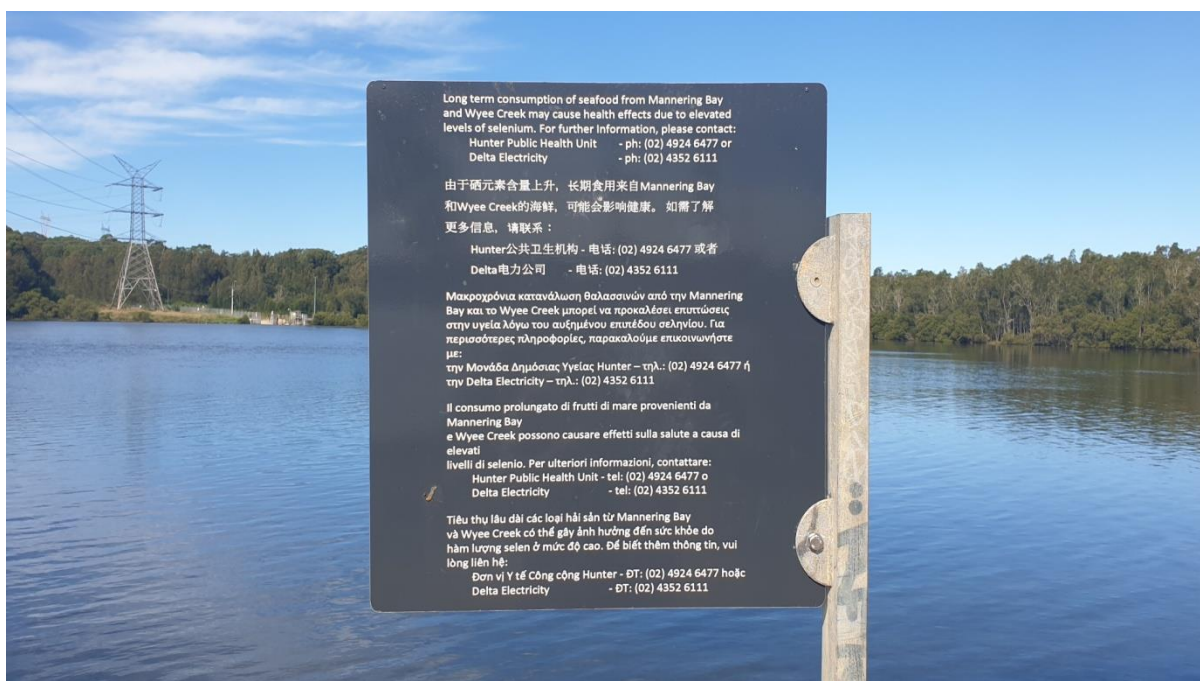
4.

In this case legal action inquiries have begun for a class action through the NSW Environmental Defenders Office against the government and any other organisation that may ignore these damning findings and incomplete studies.



Coal ash being blown over neighbouring suburbs:

Air Quality Alerts have regularly reached **“Poor or Worse”** for PM 2.5 and PM 10 particulates also contributing to these findings. The leaching of heavy metals and other chemicals into the lake and over land has caused the authorities to warn the public of potential health issues when eating fish caught in Lake Macquarie.



Warning sign at Mannering Park:

5.

Cancer clusters on the Central Coast are officially 6% above the NSW average for nine different cancers (Torrens University Cancer Cluster Report).

It is imperative that any development whether endorsed by the community or not, conform to all environmental acts and recognises the potential health impacts on new residents. It should not be allowed to simply supply earlier E.I.S. reports that found no impact on the land or lake for both fauna and flora.

Nearby proposed developments have found matters of National Significance in the region. Having identified five (5) listed Threatened Ecological Communities, ninety four (94) listed threatened species and eighty (80) listed Migratory Species which would also use this proposed site, therefore activating the E.P.B.C. Act.

Subsidence Advisory NSW (formally NSW Mine Subsidence Board) has conveniently changed its name and lifted mine subsidence districts even though there has been no remediation of any of the mines. In fact the Mannering and Chain Valley Collieries are currently seeking approval for an extension to their licenses and have already admitted to the possibility of up to 780 mm of subsidence under the lake.

With the simplest of information supplied in this formal OBJECTION, it would be irresponsible for any government department to approve such a proposal without consulting the wider community not just in the Lake Macquarie Local Government area but also the Central Coast residents who regularly use Lake Macquarie for many reasons.

If it is a State Significant Development, surely it deserves greater scrutiny, needs to tick more boxes and can prove that it is for the betterment of the existing lake residents.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Blaschke

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Community Advocate

CC: Johnson Property Group
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