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This is a submission objecting to the proposed Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4 development in Newcastle (10_0215). The T4 proposal must not be approved due to the significant and unacceptable impacts as detailed below.

With the effects of coal on health and the environment proven to be greatly detrimental it would be ludicrous to increase our capacity to export via the proposed fourth coal terminal. An increase in coal exports via the fourth coal terminal will.

1. Contribute to further CO₂ accumulation and so further climate chaos.
2. Contribute to further increases in asthma and other respiratory diseases (significantly higher in coal mining areas).
3. Further the depletion of biodiversity in the coal mining areas and the export site via the destruction of habitat.
 - a. An area within the terminal construction site which is owned by National Parks provides irreplaceable habitat for migratory shore birds. This proposal will disrupt an ecologically significant proportion of the population of four migratory shorebird species listed under international conservation conventions. At least 11 species of migratory birds recognised by international treaties rely on the habitat at "Deep Pond" and its proximity to the Hunter estuary Ramsar site. Deep Pond is the only freshwater drought refuge in the Lower Hunter Estuary system. It is relied upon by at least 15 species of waterfowl, three of which are listed as threatened under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. Because of the valuable habitat that Deep Pond provides to numerous threatened and protected species and its critical function to the nearby RAMSAR listed wetlands, Deep Pond should be protected and its management should be coordinated with the ongoing conservation efforts in the Hunter Estuary yet if the fourth coal terminal proposal goes ahead most of Deep Pond will be devastated.
4. Pose an unacceptable risk of contamination. The construction is proposed in an area where there is significant toxic contamination from previous industry. With no plans to fully remediate the sites the risk of harm to people living in the area is unacceptable.
5. Contribute to increased vibration, noise and dust pollution along a rail/road corridor that already suffers from the effects of these factors.
6. Destroy valuable agricultural land thus threatening food security.
7. Produce short-term employment but detrimentally effect more sustainable, long-term employment in the tourism, farming and fishing sectors.

The short term gain that T4 is likely to produce is overshadowed by its devastating long-term effects and thus should not go ahead.

Kind regards,



Anne Ross