

To

**Port Coal Waratah Services and all those with decision-making power on the Fourth Coal Terminal Project in Newcastle,**

**The following outlines my objections to yet another coal loader:**

**Did you know the Hunter has a rich Natural History with our wetlands being second of importance in Australia- only after Kakadu? (According to a brochure from Kakadu itself)**

**Already our European settlement has seen the disintegration of some of Australia's rich natural heritage here in the Hunter, followed thankfully recently, by a number of people working hard to successfully begin to rehabilitate some of these areas. Another coal loader puts in danger a number of irreplaceable natural resources as set out below:**

- 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. Most of Deep Pond, the only freshwater refuge in the Hunter estuary, would be lost to this project.
- This project would damage internationally important wetlands on Kooragang Island that provide critical habitat for protected migratory bird species and nationally threatened species including the Green and Golden Bell Frog and the Australasian Bittern.
- An area within the site is currently owned by National Parks, and provides irreplaceable habitat for migratory shore birds. The proposal will mean loss of habitat and disruption to an ecologically significant proportion of a population of four migratory shorebird species listed under international conservation conventions.
- The Environmental Assessment fails to meet the requirements set out by both the State and Federal agencies, and the proposal represents an unacceptable risk to the Australasian Bittern.
- The Fourth Coal Terminal would facilitate many more large coal mines (the equivalent of at least 15 'mega-pits') in the Hunter and Liverpool Plains which threaten food and water security by destroying prime agricultural land, irreversibly damaging ground water systems and polluting waterways.

**Are you also aware and care that here in Newcastle we have the only Degree in Natural History Illustration available in Australia and only one of four in the world? Wouldn't it be a tragedy that the city that is able and committed to providing this, also houses a project that allows the destruction of the above precious, irreplaceable, resources?**

I realise that the making large amounts of money, as soon as possible, drive a lot of our decisions in this current society, but if coal is such a needed resource then we can afford to: hold on to it longer, make better decisions that take into account these important issues and dole it out slowly. If it is in such high demand the buyers will come back you know.

**Another important resource it will affect is the human one, our health is important and while others who make money on the project may choose to live outside its impact, we of this area will be exposed to the following:**

- T4 would see 41 more coal trains through Newcastle and Maitland *every day*, increasing dust related health problems such as asthma and other respiratory ailments.
- Pollution from coal affects all major body organ systems and contributes to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

- The proposal also carries the risk of mobilising toxic contaminants on Kooragang Island, the former BHP Steelworks site, and in the South Arm of the Hunter River, and too little is known about the risks to ensure the communities of Newcastle will be protected from toxic accidents, seepage and accidents. There is no plan to fully remediate the sites.

**Meanwhile there are the environmental issues of feeding this particular form of energy supply, these include:**

- The coal exported would provide the capacity to feed at least 15 more large power stations around the world emitting 288 million tonnes of carbon pollution each year and fuelling global climate change.
- After construction, the coal terminal will provide *no additional employment*. Rather, it is likely to result in the loss of other economic activities in the port, such as tourism, fishing and other shipping

I hope that these points are put into the decision-making grid and given the weight of importance they deserve. Some things cannot simply be 're-generated' after the fact. In some cultures decisions were traditionally made drawing on the wisdom of the previous 7 generations and thinking of the impact on the 7 generations into the future. I propose that all decisions from small to large use this idea and particularly one such as this. I beg you to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Bronwyn Greive