



Mrs Anne Hodgson  
128 Eelah Road  
MINDARIBBA NSW 2320

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Rebecca Newman  
Dept of Planning  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Ms Newman

I am writing this submission to object to the proposed Port Waratah Coal Services new development the T4 Coal Loader. This development absolutely must not be approved. It will put the health of all residents of the Hunter Valley, including Newcastle and all those who live along the coal path, at risk. It has many, many detrimental environmentally and socially negative impacts which when considered in their entirety, it is crystal clear that the anticipated benefits are enormously outweighed by the negative impacts it will create.

I am sure you are aware of the negative environmental impacts of this development but in brief they include:-

- Encroachment on a National park removing important habitat for migratory birds
- Removing sensitive vegetation and wetlands
- Impact on threatened species:- Green and Golden Bell Frog and Australian Bittern
- Loss of shrinking habitat for other bird and wildlife species
- Loss of "Deep Pond" – where numerous birds breed annually. This area is extremely important as it provides a drought refuge for these species.
- Air pollution:- more dust is inevitable with a massive increase in coal trains down the corridor and expansion of the coal stockpiles. The coal dust from the millions of tonnes currently exported from Newcastle Port is causing health impacts - an increase of this size will exacerbate these problems. At the place I work, we are required to wear a P2 dust mask to handle empty coal sample bottles containing only minute quantities of coal dust. How can it be acceptable and legal that massive quantities of coal dust are thrust on unprotected residents lungs throughout the Hunter Valley? The volume of coal dust in the air around the Valley really should require that everyone in this region should wear a P2 mask 24/7! This dust problem is clearly visible any day in the skies around the valley.
- Dredging. This activity exposes sensitive marine organisms to a cocktail of harmful pollutants – the affects are potentially extreme.

Given the negative impacts above, I ask – why is this development being considered? Along with the environmentally harmful impacts it will do little to benefit the people of the Hunter – and worse still – will hurt many innocent residents. The following brief outline describes some of the reasons why people will not benefit.

- Employment opportunities. Limited or NO expansion of employment due to T4!
- Increasing detrimental impact on tourism – an industry which does have many opportunities to increase employment. Have you personally visited the Hunter Valley and seen first hand the amount of land that is being swallowed up due to coal mining. This insatiable and greedy expansion MUST be stopped.
- Trains. We live near a train line. The increase in the number of trains will have a negative impact on our quality of life. The noise, vibration and dust levels will go up as at least 41 additional trains will be required to supply T4.

- Construction congestion, dust, vibration, noise and light pollution will all cause negative impacts for residents around the T4 area – Mayfield and Newcastle.
- Fishing industry. This will suffer also. The negative impacts of the dredging and increased shipping will impact people who make a living from fishing and help feed our populace.

#### Coal Mining

In order to continue to supply T4, coal mining will need to be increased. Already the Hunter Valley is suffering under the current production schedule. The pain being caused as a result of the enormous coal mines include negative health impacts, loss of prime agricultural land, pollutants entering ground water, visual impacts, loss of habitat for flora and fauna and loss of Aboriginal heritage.

In conclusion I would like to say that I feel that if the Government approves this development it is showing it can ignore the significant human and environmentally negative impacts this development clearly demonstrates. It also shows that the power and influence of Mining Companies and the greed of Government to earn royalties is much more important than the human needs and health of its residents. Why can a Wind Farm development be stopped if ONE person within 2 kilometers objects when I know thousands are objecting to the unbridled expansion of the coal industries – which includes this proposed T4 development ( we live much closer than 2 kilometers to a rail line). Approving this development is both immoral and unethical on so many levels.

Yours sincerely



Anne Hodgson

Footnote <sup>1</sup>: I understand as a submission maker I need to declare that I have not made a political donation totalling \$1000 or more in the past 2 years – and state I have not made a disclosable donation.

Footnote <sup>2</sup>: I agree that this submission may be made public.