

Project Title: Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4
Application No: 10_0215

7 May 2012

Objection to Proposed Fourth Coal Export Terminal in Newcastle

I am writing to object to the above application. The Upper Hunter Rural community and Environment cannot support or survive an increase in coal production of this scale. The Hunter cannot afford to lose any more farmland, groundwater or biodiversity.

- A fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle cannot be justified
- Port capacity has already been increased to 211 million tonnes per annum (mtpa)
- The proposal wants to increase coal export capacity by a further 120mtpa to 331mtpa. This is unsustainable.
- The Upper Hunter Strategic Land Use Plan predicted that export demand through Newcastle would stabilise at about 216 mtpa by 2015 which is close to current approved capacity - an additional 120 mtpa capacity is not justified
- The proposal will require an additional 41 trains per day through the Hunter Valley Coal Chain. This will cause a cumulative impact of noise and dust through the major towns and suburbs along the rail line
- The proposal will further destroy critical habitat for migratory birds and threatened species in the Hunter estuary

This proposal and expanded coal mines needed to supply it, will put additional pressure on the future viability of the Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.

This is our story. We are farmers in Running Stream NSW and our area is threatened by the increase in coal mining and exploration. The Running Stream area has a very proud history in agriculture, primarily due to the rich basalt soil and permanent water supply from underground springs. Ours is just one of the many prime agricultural areas that are currently under threat by the mining of coal on productive agricultural land.

Most farm land across NSW is now covered by a minerals, coal or coal seam gas title of some sort. When I look at the titles blanketing NSW I can't help but feel that the Government has lost sight of the long-term interests of this state.

This application should not be approved.

Regards

Caroline Karl

