

## Rebecca Newman - Objection to the proposed T4 PWCS expansion on Kooragang Island

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**From:** Rebecca Newman  
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**Date:** 11/05/2012 9:24 AM  
**Subject:** Objection to the proposed T4 PWCS expansion on Kooragang Island  
**CC:** newcastle@parliament.nsw.gov.au; office@premier.nsw.gov.au; robyn.parker@parliament.nsw.gov.au; tony.burke.mp@aph.gov.au

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I support the submissions from John Hayes and CPCFM; from Hunter Community Environment Centre, from Transition Newcastle, from Victoria Warwyck, and our Greens Councillor Michael Osborne.

I have not made any donations in this area or this project submission.

I wish to add some pointers to what has been said by others:

- The 312ha project site includes 91ha of valuable native vegetation and 24ha of open water habitat. The project site is home to 18.8ha of saltmarsh (an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC)), 28.9ha of mangrove and 27.3ha of freshwater wetland, 4ha of which are listed as an endangered community under the TSC Act.

The margin between fresh water pond and saltmarsh is especially important for safety of Green & Golden Bell Frog from attack by the Chytrid fungus which is adding to the threat to their populations.

- Loss of habitat for 23 threatened fauna species including the Australasian bittern (listed as endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act), and the Green and Golden Bell frog (also listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act).

- Loss of habitat and disruption to an ecologically significant proportion of a 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 of deep pond and its proximity to the RAMSAR listed wetland.

- Offsets cannot hope to compensate for loss of habit at the site. The proposed offset site at Ellalong has already been identified as critical for conservation in its own right. Furthermore, the offset site fails to compensate for the loss of Deep Pond because it is over 50km away from Kooragang Island. Deep Pond is critical because it provides key foraging and roosting habitat due to its proximity to RAMSAR listed wetlands in the Hunter estuary.

Ellalong is a riverine habitat, and quite unsuitable to offset the loss of the Saltmarsh/Estuarine/freshwater association at Kooragang Island.

- 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 TSC 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.

The submission of PWCS has not provided adequate information on the Aggregate tonnage of Coal Contracts in hand which determines the Trigger Point for Expansion.

Neither has it explained the progress it has made in modelling the tidal changes caused by their proposed Swing Basin and Channel deepened dredging.

Their proposed increased pressure of construction on the buried polluted soil will surely cause loss of containment to the pollutants and leaching of contaminated groundwater.

The recision of the previously National Park strip adjacent to the present Coal railway line entering Kooragang Island, is a grossly unfortunate decision based on perfidy and shameful disregard for community values and correct treatment of established Environmental Buffer zones.

The community has been very poorly served by the arrogance of the PWCS proposal being dumped on our laps with such a huge document prepared by their paid contractors, such that even the Department of Planning professed to be unable to read the document in the time available.

My apology for the lateness, but you should still accept my humble submission.

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