

premier

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Dear Parliamentarians,

I am seriously concerned about the proposal of a fourth Port at Port Waratah, Newcastle. At a time when we are headed deeply into the affects of climate change FROM THE BURNING OF FOSSIL FUELS, we need to be investing in renewable energy. What are the governments doing to facilitate an energy form that is clean compared to polluting coal. Please consider the following:

The fourth coal terminal will:

- Facilitate the expansion of coal mining in the Hunter and Liverpool Plains and nearly double the export capacity of Newcastle.
- Double the dust and the noise for communities already affected by the coal trains in Newcastle and beyond.
- Destroy rare migratory bird habitat, endangered ecological communities and habitat for nationally threatened species.
- Double the greenhouse pollution impact of the coal exported from NSW.

Locally, the fourth coal terminal project 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 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 will threaten food and water security by destroying prime agricultural land, irreversibly damaging ground water systems and polluting waterways.
- 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. 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 site.
- The coal exported would provide the capacity to feed at least 15 more large power stations around the world emitting 288 million tones of carbon pollution each year and fuelling climate change.
- This project would damage internationally important wetlands 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 the National Parks service, 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.
 - 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 refuge in the Hunter estuary, yet a significant area of Deep Pond, would be lost to this project.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Please note my objection.

Thanking you
TORI BAIL