

SUBMISSION OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSED PORT WARATAH COAL SERVICES TERMINAL 4 DEVELOPMENT IN NEWCASTLE (10_0215).

The T4 proposal **must not be approved** due to the significant and unacceptable impacts as detailed below.

Impacts on Habitat, Endangered and Threatened Species

*An area within the T4 site is currently National Park which provides critical habitat for migratory shore birds and thus MUST NOT be included in the proposed development

*There will be loss of habitat for 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.

* 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 Threatened Species Conservation Act (TSC)

* Deep Pond is of crucial importance to the numerous threatened and protected species because of its valuable habitat and support function to the nearby RAMSAR listed wetlands.

*The 312 ha project site contains 91ha of valuable native vegetation and 24 ha of open water habitat. The site contains saltmarsh and other species listed as endangered under the TSC.

* There will be loss of habitat for 23 threatened fauna species including the Australasian Bittern and the Green and Golden Bell Frog, the first listed as endangered, the second as vulnerable under the the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

*The offsets proposed at Ellalong will not work because not only is Ellalong already identified as critical for protection in its own right, but the offset site fails to compensate for the loss of Deep Pond, being 50 kms away from Kooragang Island, hardly able to provide the key roosting and foraging areas necessary to support the RAMSAR wetland.

Air Quality and Health

*With the massive increase in coal train movements, tripling when T4 is in fully operational, some towns, Maitland being one of them, will have to endure a coal train movement every 5 minutes so there will be important health ramifications for residents living near the rail lines. These people will be exposed to a huge increase in coal dust , diesel engine exhaust and train noise.

*The T4 EA has been remiss in taking into account the effects of PM10 particles up to only 20 metres from the tracks when at least 300 metres must be modelled , has failed to account for residual coal dust produced by empty coal trains and forgotten to mention diesel combustion pollution altogether. These serious deficiencies must be remedied before T4 is given the green light.

*In addition residents living near the rail tracks by 2020 will be exposed to almost continuous noise and vibration from the trains with 42 out of 135 coal trains attributable to T4 operations. The EA states that the increase of rail noise at night will now affect residents up to 370 metres away instead of the current 320 metres, thus adding to those adversely affected by inability to sleep due to noise disturbance.

*There is no health impact study for residents living near the rail lines despite the known adverse health effects, particularly for the elderly, children and those with existing respiratory or cardiac conditions. This is another deficiency that must be remedied.

Dredging and Water Contamination

*The T4 proposal could cause the leaching of existing toxic material as there is no plan to fully remediate the heavily contaminated T4 site which will pollute both the RAMSAR site and the Hunter River.

* Dredging will impact adversely on estuarine habitats, remove aquatic habitats and has the potential to create stagnant deep holes, altering currents and causing erosion and the release of pollutants.

* An increase in shipping will impact negatively on harbour water quality with sediment disturbance, release of bilge water, chemicals and oil and dumping of debris.

* The realignment of the banks of the South Arm of the Hunter River to create a turning circle for the huge ships is a requirement of the T4 proposal. The dredging of the south Arm of the river from 2-4m to 16.2 m is a massive increase which must further exacerbate problems mentioned above. As this dredging proposal is so massively different from the original PWCS should apply for a new dredging licence.

Social and Economic Impacts on Newcastle and the Lower Hunter

*After the construction phase T4 will provide no additional long term employment and is likely to adversely effect such industries as fishing and tourism.

*The commercial fishing industry will definitely be impacted on due to loss of aquatic habitat and contamination of the river and harbour.

* Newcastle suburbs will be subjected to unrelenting noise, vibration and light pollution 24/7 from onsite operations.

Cumulative Effects of Coal Mining

By facilitating the development of 15 new large coal mines in the Upper hunter, T4 will be responsible for loss of agricultural lands, pollution of water sources, noise and air pollution, loss of Aboriginal heritage and flora and fauna loss.

*In addition, T4 will provide coal for the equivalent of 15 large coal fired power stations which will release a total of 288 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, an amount which will leave Australia's climate change credentials in tatters.

*Possibly the most damaging effect of all will be the health impacts on communities due to their proximity to coal mines. Already the sum of \$288 billion is the estimation of costs to the community and this, added to the amount of human misery caused, mitigates against any expansion of this industry, let alone another terminal.

Approval of Terminal 4 would mean unacceptable risks to the health of Hunter residents, to the health of Newcastle Harbour and to the natural environment around the precious RAMSAR wetlands. There are so many problems with this proposal that it is amazing that it could ever be considered let alone get to this stage.

Wendy White and Jan MacDonald

Co Conveners Maitland Greens

200 High St

East Maitland, 2323