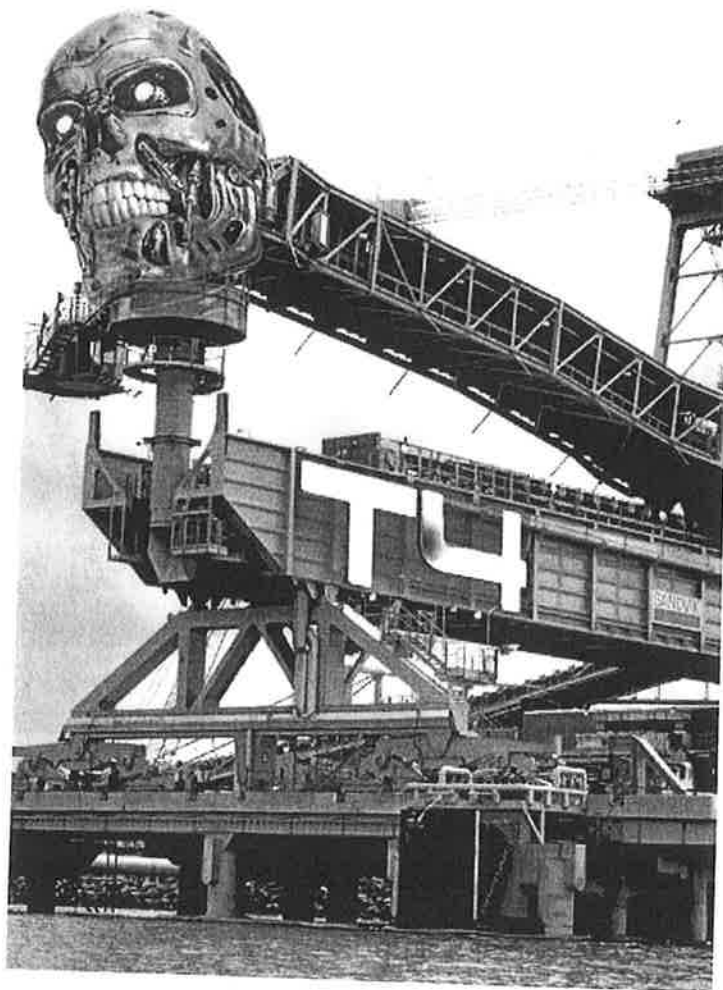


MARK MY WORDS:
HISTORY WILL LOOK BACK AT US, AND SAY



A submission regarding the self evidently obscene proposal to build a FOURTH coal loader in Newcastle
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This is a submission objecting to the proposed Port waratah coal services Terminal 4 development in Newcastle (10_0215).

The T4 proposal must not be approved.

I'm not going to make a calm and surgical blow-by-blow description of why approving another coal loader in the worlds largest coal port in the face of repeated clear warnings from climatologists that we need to get off the fossil fuels is an idiotic proposal.

Other individuals and organisations will have done that with complete clarity and the reality is governments should not need to have this stuff spelt out to you like you were kindergarten children because it is actually your duty to be aware of these issues already.

Rather than try and be dispassionate I'm actually going to display some of my anger. And I feel that anger is actually a completely legitimate response to what you [REDACTED] are doing so I offer no apology.

I've been to Muswellbrook and Singleton and heard from medical professionals and locals about the health effects of dust from the mines on the population. I've been to Mudgee and Jerry's Plains and Gloucester and Carroona and heard from farmers and residents who are watching in horror as this rapacious industry systematically swallows up the valley, destroying rivers, farmland, and pristine bush as it goes.

I've heard from Aboriginal people about their burial grounds- the equivalent of our white mans cemeteries (but way, way older with more people laid to rest there) and other sacred places being trashed by coal mines.

I've read that many reports from climatologists about how heinously [REDACTED] we already are without any new coal loaders (and the new power stations they are being built to feed) I've lost count. Reports about the collapsing arctic sea ice, about the thawing permafrost clathrates, about canfield oceans resulting from broken thermohaline cycles, and wars over water as glaciers providing food and water to over a billion people melt out.

And I've also read extensively about the very real and readily available, ready to roll, affordable renewable alternatives that provide a rock solid alternative to continued coal use. About Gemasolar and the Ivanpah solar plant and the sexy SEGs plants that preceded them. About wind turbines which dwarf the token piece of mid 90's technology built at Kooragang that is ironically set to be replaced with this repugnant fourth coal loader. Alternatives that now attract more investment globally than the coal industry does.

And all of it is common knowledge to those of us who care to look and who care about the legacy we will hand on to those who inherit this planet. And it should bloody well be common knowledge to anyone tasked with approving a coal loader in this day and age, and it shouldn't be up to people making submissions to your [REDACTED] little feedback box to educate you on these issues.

Not your problem?

Apparently your spin doctors have advanced this absurd argument that the NSW government is not responsible for considering the carbon dioxide emissions that will be generated as the vast amount of extra coal flowing through T4 gets burnt.

Wake up to yourselves, seriously. If not you, who? [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Whatever body approves infrastructure relating to an emissions intensive industry such as mines and coal loaders should be taking these emissions into account and if you aren't the rules should be changed. Trying to play this schizophrenic double game of approving coal loaders whilst denying any responsibility for the climate impacts of them does not cut any ice with me, [REDACTED]

It's just unspeakably ridiculous. It would be laughable if I wasn't hoping to enjoy my retirement or whatever 40 years from now and pass on a planet to future generations [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Cheap coal for the masses?

Apparently your spin doctors have advanced this absurd argument that it is important to increase coal exports so that developing countries can have access to cheap modern power.

Come on, give us a break. What a cynical load of crap. For a start, let's look at the top three places Newcastle exports steaming coal to: Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. These are not exactly the most impoverished nations on the planet.

Are BHP and Rio and Xstrata and Peabody about to announce a plan to cut coal exports to these countries and ration it out to the poorest nations? No, it's still all going to keep getting exported to those few relatively wealthy nations.

Let's be serious: all you people are concerned with is increasing the profits of the multinationals that dig this stuff up and sell it. You couldn't give a rat's arse about the global south - if you did there is no way in hell you would be building T4.

On the one hand, you want to exponentially increase coal exports from the world largest coal port; this will contribute to global warming which will increase the amount of

extreme weather events including cyclones, floods and drought, which will in turn massively damage global food production and cause shortages and price rises.

Who is going to feel that worst? That's right Einstein incorporated - **the global south**. The people who can least afford it. Who are the least well equipped countries to provide emergency relief to victims of floods, hurricanes and droughts? Yep, those in the global south.

Oh, your weekly food bill is now ten times what it used to be and you all have cholera from drinking water with traces of sewage and garbage in it. But that's okay, because the good old port of Newcastle is doing its part to pump coal onto the global market so you can have access to 'affordable' 'modern' coal fired electricity.

You can't eat, but that's ok, because power stations in Japan, Korea and Taiwan are still being fed a buttload of steaming coal. You have to take comfort in that fact...

Here's an idea.

Here's an idea: you want to make sure that the global south has access to modern energy sources? Sounds like a great idea. I'm all for exporting large volumes of free or highly subsidised renewables from the port of Newcastle to countries all across our region, from the Pacific Island nations, to Papua New Guinea and East Timor, to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and even to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

I'm all for investing in the mass production of 'baseload' concentrating solar thermal tower power stations to prove the technology and bring it to maturity and thus bring its price way down (just like Germany has done with solar photovoltaics over the last decade).

And I have this plan for how we can do it. Instead of building another coal loader, **lets tax 100% of the revenue generated by steaming coal exports and use every last cent of that money to fund a transition away from coal.** Lets say that Newcastle exports ten billion dollars worth of coal per year, and lets be really conservative in our estimates and say that four billion of that goes to wages and overheads. That leaves six billion dollars in profit (and if I'm not mistaken, Newcastle will export substantially more than ten billion dollars worth of the stuff in the next year too).

So lets say we had upwards of six billion dollars to play with for a transition fund. After the first year alone. I put it to you that for six billion dollars you could build a few pretty mac-daddy wind turbine factories with all the necessary supply chain bells and whistles and offer a few thousand coal workers an alternative job straight out. With no reduction in pay. And with more reasonable hours too so you might actually see your lover and/ or kids more than a couple of times a week, and get to spend your weekends with them.

Lets say coal exports were phased out over a ten year period and in that time as the tonnage of exports dropped off, the price of the commodity went up. The price has been

trending that way anyhow and will continue to do so; digging up coal and transporting it is extremely fossil fuel intensive and the price of coal has risen quite a bit in recent years at the same time oil prices have.

The other thing is, if the worlds largest steaming coal exporter - which also happens to be the one exporter which unlike Russia or Colombia or South Africa has a buttload of spare capacity - announces they are phasing out coal (no less so that they can move into renewables exports, to combat the threat of climate change!), this will exert just a wee bit of upward pressure on coal prices. Basically you couldn't think of a more symbolic message to send to the global 'marketplace' than that, in terms of saying 'coals time is up, move on, party's over, get to work on shifting to renewables people'.

Which would be great because a high coal price makes renewables more competitive, consequently more renewable capacity gets built out, consequently greater economies of scale are achieved, and the price of renewables continues its delightful downward trend and cements its dominant position as the cheapest source of electricity. Everybody wins. Except the coal companies of course, who lose epically. Bye bye cash cow,

As I was saying...

SO anyhow lets assume 100% of coal export profit from the world's largest coal port is to be cycled into a transition plan. The amount of exports will drop off as mine by mine is phased out and problems with transitioning large amounts of workers from one industry to another are ironed out. The price that can be fetched for the remaining amount of exports goes up and up.

Maybe over a ten year period you could harness forty or fifty billion dollars by taxing 100% of coal revenue from the port of Newcastle, while phasing it out.

I put it to you, that forty or fifty billion dollars would be PLENTY to establish a manufacturing base in the Hunter Valley which would allow EVERY SINGLE WORKER IN THE COAL INDUSTRY to be retrained (on generous terms) and get into this new renewables industry. Or take up generous paid redundancies. Lets remember (and you would know this better than most) that the coal industry in the Hunter has an ageing workforce. There's a lot of silver haired folk out there driving those dump trucks.

So the Hunter Valley could be a major supplier of bits for something along the lines of the *Zero Carbon Australia 2020 Stationary Energy Plan* and sell cost price or low-profit margin wind turbines and concentrating solar thermal components to some national body like the national broadband network - lets call it the 'national renewables network' - that is in charge of building the guts of this new renewable powered grid.

This would be the main destination of the large amount of wind turbine nacelles and blades and towers and CST+ heat collectors and running gear and heliostats and so on to begin with. But as the decade goes on, and the Australian renewable grid is built out and completed, we move to *exporting* our world famous super-ethical-just-transition-reformed-former-coal-port wind turbines and solar thermal gear that is the toast of the burgeoning global climate/transition movement.

At this point, we can afford to be selling these turbines at 'full price' to those in our region who can afford it but also offering the products at discounted prices (or free) for those countries that are less able to afford them.

In conclusion, I hope that every single one of you [REDACTED] who are responsible for approving this coal loader have a lot of trouble getting to sleep at night. In coming years and decades, as you see the maelstrom of climate related extreme weather events and droughts coming into existence ever more prominently, I hope you think about how you [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

And when your kids and grandchildren ask you why you didn't act to stop their future getting comprehensively ruined, you can tell them that it is because you (and the idiots you kept for company) thought it was more important to allow a small group of extremely wealthy people keep expanding their wealth than it was to tackle the whole 'climate change [REDACTED]

And it is at that point that they - like countless others who will inherit this little sphere of rock with its fragile ecosystems and weather systems - will say "what [REDACTED] were you thinking?"

The utter contempt that you have for future generations of this planet and the childish excuses you use to try and justify profane acts like the approval of T4 will be looked back on with the most profound sense of disbelief. And anger. Shame on all of you.



Zane Alcorn

As submission makers are required to disclose political donations totalling \$1000 or more in the past 2 years, I can state that I **have not made a disclosable donation.**

I have, however, volunteered a bunch of my time to doing climate and renewable energy campaign work with the Socialist Alliance in conjunction with various other climate and

renewable energy campaign groups and individuals. And I will be continuing to do so until we have shut down every coal loader in Newcastle.

I feel that occasional coarse language is infinitely less offensive than approving new coal mines and coal loaders is, and am fine with this submission being displayed publicly.