

Objection to Proposed Fourth Coal Export Terminal in Newcastle

A fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle cannot be justified. There is absolutely no need for this ridiculous proposal.

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 highly unsustainable.

The Upper Hunter environment and rural community cannot support or survive an increase in coal production of this scale. Existing coalmines are already consuming the highly productive farmland of the Hunter Valley.

The Hunter cannot afford to lose any more farmland, groundwater or biodiversity. If the Strategic Regional Land Use Plans for Upper Hunter and New England North West are to be effective in preventing land use conflict, this large proposed expansion will not occur.

The Upper Hunter Strategic Land Use Plan predicted that export demand through Newcastle would stabilize 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. Have we not already lost enough?

I find it deeply disturbing that there seems to be no end to the destruction of farmland and the environment for a short-term monetary gain. It's time this government thought more about long-term effects on the community and the environment.

The proposal and expanded coal mines needed to supply it will put additional pressure on the health of the Hunter River, the health of the Hunter people and the future viability of the Hunter Valley. It is already a known fact that coal mining is detrimental to the health of people in the Hunter. What greater detrimental effects will increased mining have?

This proposal is not justifiable by any means.

I trust you will consider my submission and appreciate my concern.
This proposal cannot be approved.

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