Rebecca Newman - RE: Submission Details for Ross Brown (comments)

From: "Ross Brown" <ross@darksidemasks.com>
To: "'Rebecca Newman'" <Rebecca.Newman@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 1/05/2012 5:45 PM
Subject: RE: Submission Details for Ross Brown (comments)

Dear Rebecca, Sorry for the error before,

I would like it on record that I oppose the T4 being built here in Newcastle, and this is why.

Here's the impacts of the T4 as I see them:
Summary of 4th Coal Terminal Impacts
1
Impacts of Increased Coal Mining in NSW
- When completed, T4 would facilitate the development of at least 15 more large coalmines in the Hunter Valley and Liverpool plains.
- The costs of more mining to the State include: greenhouse gas generation at mines, loss of agricultural lands, blasting, noise, air quality, loss of aboriginal and nonaboriginal heritage, visual impacts, loss and pollution of surface water and groundwater, damage to aquatic ecology, flora and fauna loss.
- Research shows the health impacts of the coal industry are estimated to be around $2.6 billion across Australia. Pollution from coal affects all major body organ systems and contributes to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. In the Hunter Valley this impact is all the more prevalent due to the proximity to communities of coal mining, transport and infrastructure. The 4th terminal project would increase negative health impacts in the region. For this reason alone, the negative contribution of the project far outweighs any merits.
- T4 will mean 22 more coal ships would visit Newcastle every week, pushing out other port users.
- T4 would provide coal for the equivalent of 15 more large power stations around the world, generating an extra 288 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and fuelling the global climate crisis.
2
Impacts on Habitat, Endangered and Threatened Species, and Migratory Birds
- An area within the 4th terminal site is currently National Park. The National Park lands provide critical habitat for migratory shore birds. National Park lands must not be included in the proposed development.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Air Quality
- The Environmental Assessment of T4 downplays impacts on air quality stating: "*The T4 project is not expected to result in any criterion exceedings on any additional days of the year*". It defies belief that extra, uncovered coal stockpiles will not increase the amount of coal dust effecting Newcastle suburbs.
- The EA only considers the impact of increased coal train movements on residencies within 20m of the rail line. However, the impacts of coal dust are likely to extend far beyond this area.
- The current guidelines are out-dated and fail to account for the findings of recent health studies which demonstrate that total suspended particles (coal dust) are of greater detriment to human health than when the T4 guidelines were put in place.
- The precautionary principle should be applied to potential health impacts of the T4 proposal. Approval should not be allowed until a more conclusive health and air quality study is undertaken for the Newcastle LGA.

Dredging and Water Pollution
- There is no plan to fully remediate the heavily contaminated T4 site. The T4 proposal will therefore cause the leaching of existing toxic material into groundwater and surrounding surface waters via a 'squeezing effect'. The result will be pollution of both the neighbouring (National Park and RAMSAR listed) wetlands and the Hunter River.
- An increase in shipping will negatively impact harbour water quality with sediment disturbance (some of it contaminated), release of bilge water, more antifouling agents, chemicals and oil spills, and dumping of debris. It will also reduce access for other harbour users and increase the risk of introduced species.
- The T4 proposal requires the realignment of the banks of the South Arm of the Hunter River and construction of a 'turning circle' or 'swing basin' to accommodate the world's largest ships. The proposal also requires dredging of the South Arm of the river from its natural depth of 2-4m to 16.2m with 17.8m deep shipping berths along each bank.
- The dredging will have massive impacts including the removal of aquatic habitats and impacts on estuarine habitats via changes to tidal hydrodynamics and salinity. Also, it has the potential of creating stagnant deep holes, altering currents, causing riverbed erosion and releasing pollutants that are currently trapped within the bottom sediments.
- The area that will be dredged has changed significantly after the State Government gave the dredging approval. PWCS should apply for a new license for dredging, given that the proposal for dredging has changed significantly.

Social and Economic Impacts on Newcastle and Lower Hunter
- After construction, T4 will provide no additional long-term employment. Rather, T4 is likely to result in the loss of other economic activities in the port, such as tourism, fishing and other shipping.
- T4 would facilitate an increase of at least 41 additional coal trains per day through the suburbs of Maitland and into Newcastle. This would increase congestion on the rail lines as well as increasing noise and dust.
- T4 will increase noise and light pollution. Noise, vibrations and light pollution from onsite operations will occur 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.
- T4 will cause increased traffic congestion during the construction period.
- T4 is likely to have impacts on commercial fishing due to the loss of habitat and the increased contamination caused by the dredging.

Please don't let this Terminal be built.

Thanks for accepting my submission,

Ross Brown, 7 Teralba rd , Broadmeadow

From: Rebecca Newman [mailto:Rebecca.Newman@planning.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 May 2012 1:12 PM
To: Ross Brown
Subject: Re: Submission Details for Ross Brown (comments)

Hi Ross

Your submission arrived in 15 pages (but in 1 thin column on each page) due to formatting error. Perhaps it was due to cutting and pasting? Please resend your submission direct to my email address and I will replace the previous one.

thanks
Rebecca

Rebecca Newman
Senior Planning Officer
Infrastructure Projects
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure | GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001
T 02 9228 6340 rebecca.newman@planning.nsw.gov.au

>>> Ross Brown <ross@darksidemasks.com> 1/05/2012 12:08 pm >>>

NSW GOVERNMENT Planning & Infrastructure

Confidentiality Requested: no

Disclosable Political Donation: no

Name: Ross Brown
Email: ross@darksidemasks.com

Address:
7 Teralba Rd

Broadmeadow, NSW
2292

Content:
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 due to the significant and unacceptable impacts as detailed below.

LOCAL ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The proposed development would result in loss of habitat for 23 threatened species of fauna, including the Green and Golden Bell frog and the Australasian Bittern. It would also result in disruption to an ecologically significant proportion of the population of four migratory shorebirds listed under international conservation conventions.

At least 11 species of migratory birds recognised by international treaties and 15 species of waterfowl (three of which are listed as threatened under the TSC Act) rely on the habitat of Deep Pond and its proximity to the RAMSAR listed wetland. Deep Pond is in fact the only fres hwater drought refuge in the Lower Hunter Estuary system. Deep Pond should be protected, and its management should be coordinated with the ongoing

conservation efforts in the Hunter Estuary. An area of the development would take place on land previously gazetted as National Park. This area should not be part of the proposed development. Furthermore, the project site includes 18.8ha of Saltmarsh (an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act), 28.9ha of mangrove and 27.3ha of freshw ater wetland, 4ha of which are listed as an endangered community under the TSC Act. Offsets cannot

compensate for the loss of habitat at the project site. The proposed offset site at Ellalong has been identified as critical for conservation in its own right. Furthermore, the offset site is 50km away from Kooragang Island, which is too far away to provide the ecological function of Deep Pond. Deep Pond provides key foraging and roosting habitat due to its proximity to the RAMSAR listed w etlands in the Hunter Estuary. IMPACTS

ON
AIR
QUALITY
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HEALTH
The
Environmental
Assessment
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The
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However,
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More
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increase
the
amount
of
coal
dust
already
affecting
Newcastle
suburbs.
The
precautionary
principle
should
be
applied
to

potential health **impacts of the T4 project. Approval for the project should not be given until a comprehensive health and air quality study has been conducted across the Newcastle LGA. The health impacts of the coal industry are estimated to be around $2.6 billion across Australia. Pollution from coal affects all major body organ systems and contributes to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. The 4th terminal project would increase negative health**

impacts in the Hunter region. For this reason alone, the project should not be approved.

DREDGING AND WATER CONTAMINATION

There is no plan to fully remediate the heavily contaminated T4 site. The T4 proposal could therefore cause the leaching of existing toxic material into groundwater and surrounding surface waters via a `squeezing effect'. The result will be pollution of both the neighbouring (National Park and RAMSAR listed) wetlands and the Hunter River.

The dredging will have massive impacts including the removal of aquatic habitats and impacts on estuarine habita ts via changes to tidal hydrodynamics and salinity. Also, it has the potential of creating stagnant deep holes, altering currents, causing riverbed erosion and releasing pollutants that are currently trapped within the bottom sediments. A study should be conducted to investigate this issue. An increase in shipping will negatively impact harbour water quality with sediment disturbance

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The
T4
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deep shipping berths along each bank. The area that will be dredged has changed significantly after the State Government gave the dredging approval. PWCS should apply for a new license for dredgi ng, given that the proposal for dredging has changed significantly. LOCAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS After construction, the T4 proposal will provide no additional long-‐term employment. Rather, the 22 extra coal ships per week that the T4 project will bring is

likely to push out other economic activities in the port, such as tourism, fishing and other exports. It is also likely to impact commercial fishing due to the loss of fish habitat and increased contamination from dredging. T4 would fa cilitate an increase of at least 41 additional coal trains per day through the suburbs of Maitland and into Newcastle. This would increase congestion on the rail lines as well as increasing noise

and dust. During the construction period, traffic congestion on roads is also likely to occur. The T4 project would also increase noise, light and dust pollution (mentioned in `Air Quality' above). Noise, vibrations and light pollution from on-‐site operations will occur 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. IMPACTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASED MINING The T4 project would facilitate the development of at least 15 more large coalmines in the

Hunter Valley and Liverpool plains. The EA should consider the cumulative social and environmental impacts of these mines. The costs of more mining to the State include greenhouse gas generation, loss of agricultural lands, blasting, noise, air quality, loss of aboriginal and non-‐aboriginal heritage, visual impacts, loss and pollution of surface water and groundwate r, damage to aquatic ecology, flora and fauna loss. T4 would provide coal for the equivalent of 15 more

large power stations around the world, generating an extra 288 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per year and fuelling the global climate crisis. Consideration of the impact of the `Scope 3' downstream emissions of coal exported via the T4 project should be included in the Environmental Assessment.
Sincerely, Ross Brown

IP Address: 124-171-2-16.dyn.iinet.net.au - 124.171.2.16
Submission: Online Submission from Ross Brown (comments)
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=29081

Submission for Job: #4399 Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_job&id=4399

Site: #2406 PWCS Terminal 4
https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_site&id=2406

Ross Brown

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