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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** due to the significant and unacceptable impacts as detailed below.

#### Impacts on habitat, endangered and threatened species, and migratory birds

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 with the proposed 4<sup>th</sup> terminal site is currently National Park, this area provides critical habitat for migratory shore birds.

The project site will obliterate areas of native vegetation and open water habitat. this includes 18.8ha of saltmarsh (an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act)

Loss of habitat for numerous threatened fauna species including a number listed as endangered under international conservation conventions.

Offsets will not compensate for loss of Habitat at the site. Furthermore, the proposed off set site at Ellalong has already been identified as critical for conservation in its own right and it fails to compensate for the loss of Deep Pond because it is 50 kms away from Kooragang Island. Deep Pond is critical because it is the only fresh water drought refuge in Lower Hunter Estuary and it provides key foraging and roosting habitat due to its proximity to RAMSAR internationally listed wetlands in the Hunter Estuary.

Deep Pond should be protected and its management should be coordinated with the ongoing conservation efforts in the Hunter Estuary.

#### Impacts on air quality

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.

The Environmental Assessment of T4 downplays impacts on air quality stating that "The T4 project is not expected to result in any criterion exceedences on any additional days of the year" It seems patently obvious even to the layperson that increased coal trains and coal stockpiles will adversely affect the health of the Newcastle community.

The impacts of coal dust will extend beyond the stated area of 20m.

Recent health studies show that suspended coal dust particles are far more detrimental to human health than those stated in the T4 guidelines. A more conclusive health and air quality study should be undertaken for the Newcastle LGA before any further decisions are made.

#### Water pollution and dredging impacts

An increase in shipping will negatively impact harbour water quality with contaminated sediment, release of bilge water, more antifouling agents, chemical and oil spills, and



dumping of debris. It will also greatly reduce access for other harbour users, tourism and fishing.

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, and too little is known about the risks to ensure the communities of Newcastle will be protected from toxic accidents, seepage and accidents which will contaminate. There is no plan to fully remediate the sites.

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. This will have massively detrimental effects on the health of the waterway and members who enjoy fishing in this area.

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 in 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 is likely to have impacts on commercial fishing due to the loss of habitat and the increased contamination caused by the dredging.

#### Impacts due to 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.

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**.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Margaret".