

Rebecca Newman - Submission Details [REDACTED] (comments)

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 Date: 20/04/2012 7:19 PM
 Subject: Submission Details [REDACTED] (comments)
 CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

☒ Department of Planning

Confidentiality Requested: yes

Disclosable Political Donation: no

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Content:
 17th April 2012

RE: the 4th Coal Terminal for Newcastle

I would like to strongly object on behalf of my family on the establishment of the T4 development at Kooragang Island.

Global warming

First and foremost I do not believe that we as a nation should be mining and exporting any new coal when it is conclusively and scientifically proven that one of the biggest contributors to global warming is the burning of fossil fuels. We need to take our global responsibility seriously by not contributing further to this international crisis.

It is my understanding that the volume of coal that we export as a country by far exceeds the amount of coal that we consume as a nation and therefore our most urgent contribution to preventing any further global warming is to discontinue exporting our coal.

Energy economics

As a result of the increasing difficulty in reaching accessible coal deposits, the costs of mining coal is increasing. I believe the countries that are currently buying the majority of our NSW coal will soon be unable to afford it and will instead turn to cheaper and more readily available energy sources. As a result, the expense to the taxpayer, and the environmental costs of going ahead with this 4th Terminal are not justified.

Impacts on agricultural land

I am opposed to new mines opening too because of the impact that they are having on our agricultural areas in the Hunter Valley. Small communities are being completely destroyed and their calls to stop the expansion of the coal industry have been ignored. Our ground water systems, waterways and agricultural soils are this area's most valuable resource, and yet this project proves that our elected government considers that they are worthless.

Air pollution and noise pollution

Further to this, as a resident of Tighes Hill, I have deep concerns about the level of noise pollution and air pollution that this new development will impose on my family.

With industrial trains loaded with coal travelling uncovered through our suburb I am concerned about the increased coal dust that will be dispersed. I do not feel that there has been enough monitoring done on the air quality impacts of coal dust from trains.

Rail infrastructure

I also have concerns that the current rail infrastructure is not sufficient to carry the increased capacity of trains that the T4 would require. I would like to see a detailed response as to how developers feel that they intend to use the existing

system once the T4 has been completed.

Stockpiling

Having the extremely inefficient system of stockpiling coal is also of deep concern. I would like to see government change the way coal deposits are purchased and delivered. We should be finding ways of updating existing systems so that coal can be deposited directly onto ships. Double handling and stockpiling means more coal dust for hundreds of nearby residents. The health impacts relating to coal dust are well documented internationally, but unfortunately does not seem to be monitored closely in the Hunter Valley. There are other parts of the world where trains hold their cargo until there are enough of them to unload directly onto the ship, I think this option should be explored.

Contaminated site

I am concerned about the site that has been chosen for this development. Being an industrial site previously, and connected to such an important estuary I do not feel that it is appropriate or safe to destabilise the site in order to construct the T4 facility.

Significant species

I am concerned that this development will impact negatively upon 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. It seems inconceivable that one end of the Kooragang island is deemed significant enough to recently be declared a national park, while the other is zoned for a massive industrial development.

Deep pond

At least 11 species of migratory birds recognised by international treaties rely on the habitat at "Deep Pond" and its proximity to the Hunter estuary Ramsar site. Most of Deep Pond, the only freshwater refuge in the Hunter estuary, would be lost to this project.

Poor environmental assessment

The Environmental Assessment fails to meet the requirements set out by both the State and Federal agencies, and the proposal represents an unacceptable risk to the Australasian Bittern.

No benefit to newcastle

While internationally owned coal companies may benefit from this development, the Newcastle community will not. After construction, the coal terminal will provide no additional employment. Rather, it is likely to result in the loss of other economic activities in the port, such as tourism, fishing and other shipping.

For all of these reasons I would like to submit my objection to this development and hope that the project will not be authorised to continue.

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Submission: Online Submission (comments)

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com?action=view_diary&id=28496

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

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