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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

The proposed project site includes 91ha of valuable native vegetation and 24ha of open water vegetation. The area includes 18.8ha of Saltmarsh which is regarded as an endangered ecological community under the Threatened Species Conservation Act. In addition 27.3 ha of freshwater wetland and 28.9ha of mangrove are included in the site despite 4ha of this land being listed as endangered community under the TSP Act. The site also includes some National Park land which must not be included as it provides critical habitat for migratory birds.

Deep Pond which is part of the proposed development area provides vital habitat for many migratory species due to its proximity to the RAMSAR listed wetlands nearby. It is the only drought refuge in the Lower Hunter Estuary system and as such is relied upon by 15 species of waterfowl, three of which are listed as threatened under the TSC Act.

The proposed offset site at Ellalong is over 50kms away and does not compensate for proposed loss of Deep Pond which is critical habitat near the RAMSAR wetlands.

There will be unacceptable loss of habitat for 23 threatened fauna species including the Australian bittern and the Green and Golden Bell frog which are listed as endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

#### Air Quality and Health Impacts

The precautionary principle should be applied when assessing health impacts of the T4 proposal. However the Environmental Assessment only considers the impact of increased coal train movements on residences within 20 m of the rail line which is much too narrow a limit. Coal dust and its impacts are likely to extend much farther than this boundary. Pollution from coal dust contributes to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality and so this project should not be approved on such inadequate health assessments. More uncovered coal stockpiles will increase the amount of coal dust already affecting Newcastle suburbs.

### Dredging and Water Contamination

There is no plan to remediate the heavily contaminated T4 site. If the proposal is allowed there will be leaching of existing toxic material into groundwater and surrounding surface waters via a squeezing effect resulting in pollution of the National Park and RAMSAR wetlands and Hunter River.

Extensive dredging is required to realign the banks of the South Arm of the Hunter River and the construction of a swing basin. This requires the dredging of the South Arm of the river from its natural depth of 2-4 m to 16.2m with 17.8m shipping berths along each bank. This dredging will have massive impacts on estuarine habitats via changes to tidal hydrodynamics and salinity. It has the added potential of creating stagnant deep holes altering currents, causing riverbed erosion and releasing pollutants currently trapped within the bottom sediments.

As the area to be dredged has already changed significantly since the State Government gave the dredging approval the PWCS should be required to apply for a new license for dredging, given that the proposal for dredging has changed significantly.

The proposed increase in shipping will impact negatively on the harbour water quality with sediment disturbance (possibly contaminated), increased bilge water release, anti-fouling agents, possible oil spills and dumping of debris together with the danger of the release of introduced species.

### Local Social and Economic Impacts

Once completed the T4 proposal provides no new long term jobs. The increased ship activity in the harbour is likely to adversely affect other economic activity in the harbour such as fishing, other exports, tourism, and recreation. Commercial fishing is likely to be affected due to loss of habitat and increased contamination.

The significant increase of trains (at least 41 per day) through the suburbs of Maitland and Newcastle will increase congestion on the rail lines as well as additional dust and noise. Increased congestion on the roads will occur during construction. The T4 project itself will significantly increase noise, light and dust pollution in the suburbs especially as the on-site operations will run 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

The social and economic impact assessments do not address the issues relating to particular groups within the community. In particular the health impact on children and older people to be addressed in detail. The costs associated with increased deaths and disease are not addressed at all - it is imperative that this issue is included in the



Economic Impact Assessment in terms of the financial impacts of death and health costs associated with increasing levels of respiratory, cancers and cardio-vascular diseases.

In addition, the costs of transport delays for residents and visitors is not given any consideration – time is money for this community. The community concerned here includes residents and visitors to Newcastle, Port Stephens, Maitland and the Hunter Valley.

The SIA explains away all of the impacts identified by the community and reduces these to being non-existent through the preparation of further studies and future monitoring. Further studies and monitoring will not patch up the issues associated with the fishing industry, traffic or air quality. The situation needs to be “fixed” before the development.

The data relating to the community within the Social Impact document relates to the Newcastle LGA but does not address the data relating to Mayfield, Stockton and Carrington which are home to some of the most disadvantaged people in Newcastle and will be highly impacted by the development. In particular the health of these groups needs to be addressed with due consideration given to the location of the many schools and aged persons facilities located within a 3 kilometre radius of the site.

#### Impacts on Climate Change and Increased Mining.

The T4 project would facilitate the development of a least 15 more large coalmines in the Hunter Valley and Liverpool Plains. The EA should consider the cumulative social and environmental impacts of such an increase in coal mining. The costs to the State of NSW of increased mining should take into account increased green house gas production, loss of vital agricultural land, detrimental effect on tourism, blasting, noise, air pollution, loss of aboriginal and non-aboriginal heritage, visual impact, loss and pollution of surface and ground water, damage to aquatic ecology, loss of flora and fauna.

T4 has the potential to provide coal for the equivalent of 15 more large power stations around the world, generating an extra 288 million tones 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.

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

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