

397

Rebecca Newman - Objection to Proposed Fourth Coal Export Terminal in Newcastle

From: Fiona Sim <fionasim24@gmail.com>
To: <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 7/05/2012 10:22 PM
Subject: Objection to Proposed Fourth Coal Export Terminal in Newcastle

Objection to Proposed Fourth Coal Export Terminal in Newcastle

Project Title: Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4

Application No: 10_0215

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to state my objection to the proposed fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle. If this terminal is approved it will cause a major expansion of coal mining in the Hunter and other parts of NSW, a district and a state already reeling from the impact of too many new mines and too many new mining exploration leases.

A fourth coal export terminal in Newcastle simply cannot be justified. Below are just some of the reasons why:

1. 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 unsustainable.
2. The Upper Hunter environment and rural community cannot support or survive an increase in coal production of this scale.
3. The Hunter cannot afford to lose any more farmland, groundwater or biodiversity.
4. 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 must not occur.
5. The Upper Hunter Strategic Land Use Plan predicted that export demand through Newcastle would stabilise at about 216 mtpa by 2015 which is close to current approved capacity; an additional 120 mtpa capacity is not justified.
6. 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.
7. The proposal will further destroy critical habitat for migratory birds and threatened species in the Hunter estuary.
8. 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.

This proposal *must not* go ahead.

397A

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours faithfully

Fiona Sim
6213 Castlereagh Highway
Running Stream 2850