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This is a submission **objecting** to the proposed Port Waratah Coal Services terminal 4 development in Newcastle (10_0215) despite the modifications that have been made in the revised application. **The T4 proposal must not be approved** because it still contributes to unacceptable impacts as part of the expanding coal chain. I note that in the revised submission this has still not been addressed although there have been some attempts to make the project smaller. All my original objections (as described in submission #30713 remain unaddressed.

The reality that we face globally is that if we are to have any possibility of restricting global temperature rises to 2 centigrade degrees, we must leave all remaining coal reserves in the ground. The building of the T4 presupposes that all remaining coal reserves in the Hunter Valley will be mined and shipped for burning. This must not be allowed. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations.

Environmental Impact of T4 as part of the coal chain

While the revised plan almost halves the amount of coal that will be shipped from the T4, it is still too much. Even if there was a market for the extra coal (and current trends suggest that this is highly unlikely), we should not be making any further contribution to the use of fossil fuels for energy. Renewable energy sources are becoming more feasible every day and are now serious contenders for meeting base-load requirements.

Locally the revised plan for the T4 will destroy an important habitat for seriously threatened species of waterbirds and frogs including the green and golden bell frogs. The increased offset areas will not be an adequate substitute.

Social Impact of T4 as part of the coal chain

None of my concerns regarding the social impact of the T4 have been addressed by the revised plan. All it has done has simply reduced the rate at which in peak times, coal could be exported.

As noted previously, the mining of coal has health impacts for communities around the coal – when it is mined, and transported and then when it is burnt. Here in Newcastle, residents in suburbs close to Kooragang are impacted by the health consequences of coal dust. The prevalence of asthma and other respiratory ailments is directly linked to exposure to coal dust and emissions.

As noted previously the continued expansion of the coal chain puts increased pressure on prime agricultural land and water supplies and threatens farming communities. Increasing CO2 emissions further threatens food security across the globe.

Economic Impact of T4 as part of the coal chain

This revised submission still seems to use a biased process for determining the economic impact of the T4. They have seemed unable to consider the economic costs of the whole chain while continuing to count the economic benefits of being part of the chain. The economic costs are high:

- The health costs of transporting coal through residential areas.
- The costs of lost farming land
- The huge costs of climate instability – the effects of which we are already seeing as the weather becomes more extreme.
- The psycho-social costs of environmental degradation and loss of species habitats

Conclusion

In conclusion, I urge that this application be rejected on the basis that the negative impacts on our global community are too costly.

Declaration

As a submission maker I am 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.**