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Major Project Assessment
Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 31
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Friday 22 November 2013

Dear Rebecca Sommer

Objection to Port Waratah Coal Service Terminal 4 No: 10_0215

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preferred Project Report and Response to Submissions on the proposed major expansion of coal export facilities at the Port of Newcastle.

I am a resident of the Upper Hunter region and live near three large open cut and underground coal mining operations on the headwaters of the Goulburn River. The regulation of these mines is very poor and there are ongoing breaches of conditions of approval and environmental pollution licences that have been reported by community members.

The cumulative impact of the current level of coal extraction in the region is unknown. I consider that the current scale of the industry in the Hunter is out of control and causing long term irreparable damage on a local, regional, national and international scale.

I believe that this proposed project is unsustainable because it will contribute to increased greenhouse gas emissions and thus increase the intensity of climate change with its inherently large economic, social and environmental costs.

The proposed project is also unsustainable because of the impacts on an internationally significant habitat used by migratory bird species that are subject to a number of international treaties upheld by the Commonwealth Government.

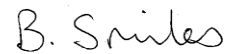
The proposed project cannot be justified in the context of a major downturn in the thermal coal industry. The Port of Newcastle currently has approved expansion to handle 211 million tonnes of coal per annum. I do not believe that this level of extraction will be met.

The proposed additional 70 million tonnes of coal per annum to be exported through a fourth terminal is extremely optimistic in the current global market. I do not believe that coal production in the Hunter Region and beyond will double from the current 141 million tonnes exported in 2012.

The current level of impact of the coal industry on the environment, river health, air quality, communities and other industries is not adequately assessed by the planning process in NSW. A doubling of the current extraction rate cannot be seriously considered.

The Port Waratah Coal Service Terminal 4 is not justified, is not an ecologically sustainable development and should not be approved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Smiles".

Bev Smiles