

SUBMISSION ON THE T4 PREFERRED PROJECT REPORT

BY: AMANDA MACOKATIC 22.11.13

I believe that a fourth coal terminal in the Port of Newcastle is not warranted for many different reasons.

Coal dust is bad for the environment and for human health. Workers at Kooragang Island possess an increased cancer rate compared to other occupations(1). This is no coincidence.

Coal is a poor investment that many countries are now moving away from. At the recent climate summit held in Warsaw just this week, the United Kingdom stated that they are going to be ceasing international funding for coal related projects. Also at this summit, five Nordic countries announced that they would be calling for an end to coal projects investment (2). Many developed countries are now moving away from investments in and use of coal as an energy resource.

With Australia already holding the title of being the world's largest exporter of coal and as Newcastle Port is already one of the largest coal export ports in the world (3), the need for further expansion seems highly questionable.

Coal is a fossil fuel that is going to soon become extinct as the world moves towards cleaner, greener, renewable energy sources. Why would Newcastle want to expand its port to double in size when coal is such a toxic substance to be trading in? Why wouldn't Novocastrians want to be moving toward cleaner energy sources? This money could be used to fund these more environmentally-friendly and sustainable type projects.

From the perspective of a person who has been researching energy for many years now, Sierra Club Executive Director, Michael Brune has stated "Despite the coal industry's best efforts, there is a growing, global consensus to stop wasting public money on dirty coal that sickens communities, pollutes our air and water, and threatens our children's future,"(2).

Finally, as per Article 25 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to an adequate living standard(4) is just one of the basic human rights which would be highly compromised if this proposal were to go ahead. Living in a town full of coal dust which causes cancer and other health problems for inhabitants of our community for now and for many years to come, is something which I personally will not stand for!

Regards,

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References:

1. <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/kooragang--coal-workers-face-increased-cancer-risk-study-20120720-22e2v.html>
2. <http://ecowatch.com/2013/11/20/uk-announces-end-public-financing-coal/>
3. <http://www.newportcorp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=111627>
4. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml#a25>