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Review of Port Waratah Coal Services Terminal 4 Project (MP10_0125)

Preferred Project Report November 2013

OBJECTION

Thank you for the opportunity to state my objection to the T4 Project proposed by PWCS.

I have read the response to submissions document. I found it to be superficial and misleading, merely acknowledging community concerns without transparent analysis of the issues that require equitable solutions.

In fact, I am appalled that such a biased, one-sided document has been produced.

PWCS states that T4's net production benefits will outweigh costs to the community and environment. This can only be stated because PWCS have chosen to ignore existing economically viable alternatives to their Project. (if it goes ahead).

The state of the present coal industry is unpredictable to say the least. The coal industry has stated on a number of occasions this year that it is in dire straights from cheaper global markets and China having to immediately reduce pollution and emissions from coal burning. Thousands of coal mining jobs in NSW have been lost as well as those from associated industries. The global market for coal exports is changing in response to climate change imperatives from Governments and the global abundance of the coal resource itself.

It is foolhardy for the government to support the expansion of the coal industry at this time given the collapse in and costs of Australian coal exports – evidenced in the Preferred Project Report by T4's reduced size and the fact that the Project will only be built when capacity demands exceed present infrastructure. To support T4 would risk a costly legacy of stranded infrastructure assets. The community would bear such costs.

This proposal comes with no guarantee of ever being required or ever being built.

Credible and respected institutions as well as world governments are presently gearing up for alternative energy sources and generation and coal is not part of the picture.

If PWCS really believe that coal will continue to fuel world energy demands as they claim, they are living in a fool's paradise. I believe the large coal mining consortiums that make up PWCS are able to carry the cost of low priced coal exports and will endeavour to do so regardless of the cost to the community. They have their shareholder's economic interests to answer to in the first instance. This can only occur however if the external costs continue to be borne by the community. This situation should not be tolerated any longer.

For PWCS to state that their coal network works within government guidelines, negates an expected level of corporate responsibility required to address the serious social and environmental impacts of their industry.

Health experts, environmental experts, social commentators and economists are on record opposing the T4 Project. T4's present and future economic liabilities include

Single use infrastructure, further regional environmental degradation to expand the industry to support T4 justification, increase in greenhouse gas emissions – global warming, reduced employment opportunity in alternative industries and lack of job security, jeopardising growth in existing economically sustainable regional industries, health impacts from noise and dust generated at all point sources of coal production and transportation.

The Proponent insults the intelligence of the community when they state that future generations will be better off with T4 because they will have a greater stock of goods and services at hand. My understanding is that goods and services connected to a redundant industry are nothing more than stranded assets.

PWCS cannot provide an assurance that the T4 Project is viable, BUT T4 can be a going concern if we invest in infrastructure that will bring the mining of coal forward in time. PWCS state that our future will be better off if we invest in their Project. This is nonsense displaying vested interest concern only.

The T4 Project does not meet the needs of the community or global export markets. It is not economically justified due to the costly social and environmental risks involved which will have to be carried by communities along the coal chain and at taxpayer expense. It will adversely affect and limit future operations of Newcastle Port.

T4 should not be supported by decision makers.

Yours faithfully,

Megan Benson.