

I appreciate this opportunity to provide a submission to Centennials Northern Coal Logistics Project which proposes an increase in coal handling and processing facilities at Newstan Colliery Surface Site, Mandalong and Cooranbong. I object to the project *as it stands* because I don't think enough precautionary measures and environmental considerations have been addressed. If these were adequately addressed I would be more likely to support the project.

My family have chosen to live in the local area for over 50 years because of the rural aspect, natural bushland beauty, feeling of community and its location close to amenities, transport and the lake. As a citizen that values the environment and the unique lifestyle that we are lucky enough to enjoy here on the west side of Lake Macquarie, I participate in local LandCare and am an active member of the LT Creek Sustainable Neighbourhood Group, an initiative of Lake Macquarie City Council. At home I use sustainable principles such as recycling, rain water harvesting, composting, planting out native habitat, providing nesting boxes on my property and rehabilitating injured/orphaned native wildlife (NATF Member). I also have a productive organic based garden that reduces my food miles by growing veges, fruit, nuts and eggs in an effort to reduce my ecological footprint and in line with being a responsible member of the community and user of the earth's resources. It also contributes to my health and wellbeing, the two things I value most in life for myself and for others.

My concerns about the increased coal handling are twofold.

- The increase in coal dust (including total suspended particles PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) due to increased coal loading from 3Mtpa up to 8 Mtpa /day, given that there has been no commitment by Centennial in the submission to have an automatic loader installed (as it has been identified that using the current front end loading method generates a great deal of dust) and to have covers used on the coal wagons. Additional dust (from loading & movement) and exhaust from the additional coal wagons/locomotives will also result in an increase in small particulate pollution, and while on its own exhaust may not represent a great increase, but I believe it is the cumulative gross impact of all the additional dust/particulate sources that is most likely to effect the health of local residents, employees of Centennial and the wildlife of the area. I also believe that good corporate stewardship would mean that Centennial would also put in place a comprehensive air monitoring program that extended further afield than the 1-2km from the sites as my concern is that the small particulate has a greater area of 'field of effect' due to its small size and ability to be carried further on the wind. If small particulate pollution has been widely accepted as detrimental to the health of individuals of all ages, then there should be regular and comprehensive monitoring and reporting to the community for areas such as Fennell Bay, Toronto, Bolton Point and Woodrising as these are growing population areas with large numbers of children (schools and sporting grounds) and elderly (age care facilities and villages). I didn't see much written about these areas in the Submission or Social Impact Study, so I also question whether or not these communities have been adequately consulted with and considered. I'd also like to clarify that a comprehensive air monitoring program would include appropriate and accurate air quality testing units, not just a funnel stuck into a beaker and tied to a star picket.
- The loss of habitat including the loss of nesting hollows, the loss of T.juncea (approx. 20% removal), in general the cumulative pressure on the native flora and fauna and biodiversity in the area.

In summary;

Under the existing approval for Newstan, the train loading system is to be automated when export exceeds 3 Mtpa. I ask that this to be enacted.

I ask that all coal wagons be covered.

I ask that Centennial put in place an extensive and effective dust (small particulate) monitoring program and report the findings to the community on a regular basis to ensure accountability, transparency and corporate responsibility.

I ask that Centennial put in place and actively engage/maintain/report on to the local community: the nesting box program and the relocation/study for TJ. As I understand TJ is present on Jigadee Estate which was a Koala research project in the past, and has significant bio diversity and a number of threatened species including TJ. I therefore ask that part of the TJ study include maintenance and monitoring of Jigadee Estate.

I ask that Centennial implement Offsets to meet the guidelines of the EPBC Act and NSW Offsetting guidelines.

I ask for parcels of crown land to be offset into the Awaba Conservation Area for the conservation and protection of biological diversity and ecological integrity, in particular DP 755218 – Lots 88-91.

I am proud to be part of 3 generations growing up in this area but I am a concerned resident. While it is important for our economic future to mine for resources, it is just as important to take precautions and reinvest some of the profits to help make it as sustainable and low impact as reasonably possible.

I hate to find myself considering that I may need to relocate my family due to the prospect of poor air quality and degradation of the environment, two things that could be massively reduced by Centennial investing in the infrastructure and programs to protect the future health of local people (which include their employees and their families) and the environment.