



Community Environment Network Inc.

An alliance of community and environment groups from Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford.

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Submission re: Proposed Upgrade of Newstan Colliery Surface Site and Cooranbong Entry Site along with existing private haul roads and rail loading infrastructure.

Lake Macquarie Planning Committee of CEN is responsible for evaluating major planning proposals in the City of Lake Macquarie and makes informed submissions to NSW State Government on environmental, social and economic issues and their contribution to ecologically sustainable development.

CEN objects to this proposal on the following grounds:

1. The State government should move away from giving consent to projects that are environmentally and/or socially damaging. The NSW government should be supporting the development of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind. The proposed development seeks to expedite further mining of coal which is one of the most polluting sources of energy and proven to be injurious to public health especially that of children.
2. NSW is experiencing a reduced demand for electricity sourced from coal fired power stations such as Earing. As a member of Eraring Power Station Community Forum CEN was made aware of this downward trend - which is likely to continue in the foreseeable future – thus reducing its overall demands for coal from the Mandalong and Newstan mine.
3. Climate change science predicts accelerated global warming if global dependency on fossil fuels such as coal continues.
4. The expansion planned for Cooranbong and Newstan Collieries will only contribute further to climate change and global warming.
5. Expansion of rail loading facilities will increase the tonnage of coal exported and further increase the consumption of fossil fuels overseas. The increased emissions of CO₂ will result in further global atmospheric warming.
6. Further uptake of renewable forms of energy in Australia and globally will continue to reduce the total demand for coal thus reducing the need to continue and expand coal production at the proposed sites.
7. The use of the private haul road to Newstan colliery and rail haulage contribute to

increased fine particulate matter in the atmosphere of the Lower Hunter. These fine particles are so injurious to human health and especially the health of children. Fine particles of dust from coal haulage by road and rail and smoke stack emissions from coal burning power stations are a major contributing factor to high levels of asthma in the population of Lake Macquarie and the Hunter Valley. Royalties to the NSW government from coal mining will be rapidly offset by increased public health care costs.

8. Home owners and businesses are responding to climate change with increased uptake of renewable sources of energy. Global demand for coal is weakening. The local and global community increasingly supports the move to renewable energy both privately and publicly.

CEN strongly urges the NSW government to withhold consent to the upgrades of surface sites at the Newstan and Mandalong coal mines and to focus strongly on facilitating the switch from dirty fossil fuels to clean renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind.

CEN welcomes the opportunity to comment on this development proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Avril Lockton

Deputy Chair
Community Environment Network