

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO
Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Director, Mining Projects

Re: Wallarah 2 Coal Project

I wish to make a Submission in favour of the proposed Wallarah 2 Coal Project.

The reasons I support this project are:-

1. It is probably one of the most highly explored and, as a result, best understood coal projects ever in New South Wales.
2. The exploration program undertaken for this project was specifically designed to gather as much high quality systematic data as possible on all aspects of the geology of the resource.
3. Industry experts with many years of experience and many with world-class reputations have been engaged to design and assess the proposal.
4. Techniques employed to assess the rock mass behaviour above and around the proposed mining area (caving, fracturing and movements including surface subsidence) to determine impacts on groundwater, flooding, structures, sensitive environmental areas and heritage sites have been described by experts in the field as leading edge.
5. Because of the high quality and quantity of scientific data gathered for the project and the wealth of experience held by those assessing that data stakeholders can have a very high degree of confidence in the predictions made.
6. Concerns expressed by stakeholders have been examined and addressed during the design and assessment process.
7. Some claims by opponents of the project could best be described as ill informed, unsubstantiated and misleading and are obviously made by persons with no qualifications or experience in the areas they choose to comment on.
8. More than one expert panel and several peer reviews have supported the claims by the project that the Central Coast water supply, the item of most concern to local residents, will not be compromised by the project.
9. Impacts from subsidence, flooding, noise, dust and transport have been shown to be either well within design standards and readily addressed by on-going management plans.
10. There are very few and only minor environmental impacts.
11. The coal resource planned to be mined by the project is one of the last high quality, readily assessable coal resources in New South Wales.
12. The Central Coast needs investment in jobs to reduce the high unemployment in the area and this project will provide many direct, highly paid, high skilled positions and even more in support roles.
13. If this project does not proceed, coal mining on the central coast will probably cease within the next 10 years resulting in the loss of many positions and skills to the area.

I believe that if this project is thoroughly assessed on its merits it will be found that its positive features far outweigh any negative impacts (all of which would be addressed by the normal operational management plans and incremental approval processes that all coal mines must comply with). The project should receive the full support of Planning & Infrastructure, the state government and the local community.

Regards

Keith Bartlett