

June 20, 2013

Director - Mining Projects
Major Projects Assessment,
Department of Planning & Infrastructure,
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.

RE: WALLARAH 2 Coal Mine

Dear Director,

Please find below our submission and objections to the proposed Wallarah 2 Coalmine. I have written this submission with an obvious influence for my immediate locality and the surrounding Central coast region.

I am a property owner of 34 acres located at 45 Boyds lane, Wyong creek, NSW, 2259. The recently released Wallarah 2 EIS indicates that I will be directly affected as a result of vertical subsidence (75cm) + horizontal subsidence (15cm) to our dwelling that we have recently completed at a cost of over \$1 million.

Furthermore, I have needed to expend a \$20,000 to date to adhere to Mine subsidence board requirements and I believe it is unfair and unreasonable to enforce extra costs (without compensation) onto land owners for a mine that should not proceed.

The proposed mine impacts the following Key Areas that I believe deem the proposal unsuitable. The Wallarah 2 coalmine should be rejected due to the following reason/submissions:-

Coal Dust

The EIS indicates that there is a risk of illness leading ultimately leading to death as a result of air borne coal dust originating from the coal mine + transport. As one of the fastest growing (population) regions within Australia, North Central coast are expected to attract 100,000 residents to new developments at Warnervale + Wyee. This development area exists within a short distance to the proposed Bushells Wallarah 2 main plant.

It is current practice for schools and residents around Tighes Hill (Newcastle) to measure coal dust effects on the current student population due to significant increases in student illness as a result of airborne coal dust. COAL DUST Does carry! The risk of such on established areas such as Lake haven, Blue Haven, Charmhaven, Bushells Ridge are significant.

The Impacts are too great to permit a coal mine.

I refer to previous coal dust studies contained below:-

Wetlands Ecology and Management
October 2005, Volume 13, Issue 5, pp 509-515

Coal Dust Pollution Effects on Wetland Tree Species in Richards Bay, South Africa

In this study, the effects of coal dust on four, sympatric, wetland tree species in Richards Bay Harbour were investigated. We tested the hypothesis that leaf micromorphology influenced dust accumulation and that coal dust occluded stomata and reduced photosynthetic performance of three mangroves, Avicennia marina, Bruguiera gymnorhiza and Rhizophora mucronata, and a mangrove associate, Hibiscus tiliaceus. To investigate leaf micromorphology, leaf blade material of the four species was prepared following standard procedures and viewed under scanning electron microscopy. Gas exchange and chlorophyll fluorescence measurements were made at saturating light ($>1000 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) and high temperature ($>25^\circ\text{C}$) on leaves that were either covered or uncovered with coal dust. There was no evidence of occlusion of stomata by dust. Dust accumulation in A. marina and H. tiliaceus was exacerbated by the presence of a dense mat of trichomes on the undersurface of the leaves, as well as by the sticky brine secreted by salt glands in the former species.

Coal dust significantly reduced CO_2 exchange

The impact of coal dust on natural vegetation is excessive as it reduces photosynthesis and much of the coal dust on the underside of leaves etc cannot be blown/washed off.

Much of the land surrounding Wallarah 2 facilities is either marked for residential/commercial development or sensitive vegetation including but not limited to wetlands, rainforest pockets and Euclaypt forestation. I believe that the risk of unrepairable damage to the natural vegetation are significant.

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Historical Protection + Significance

The Proposed Coal Mine EIS has indicated that the belowmentioned Heritage listed dwellings will Subside by approx 75cm. There are also a further 7 x Heritage Listed structures/dwellings in the immediate Wyong Creek vicinity that will attract horizontal subsidence.

The belowmentioned structures are currently used / maintained by descendants of the original pioneering families and are currently used and admired by the local community. Heritage significance also applies to the construction techniques used at the time of construction. Cedar used in the construction of these buildings originated from our Yarramalong Valley ('aboriginal name' for Cedar) and damage to these buildings cannot be rectified without impacting the true heritage significance of these structures.

I have included below details of the heritage properties effected.

Lot 129 DP 755271 Boyds Lane, WYONG CREEK

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Historically the building is regionally significant because it is representative of the pioneering families of the region establishing in the region's farming birthplace. Socially it has regional significance to the descendants of the pioneering Boyd family, while scientifically, it like its neighbouring contemporaries, has regional significance for their potential to contribute to an understanding of the lifestyle of successful farmers in this pioneering area of the region around the turn of the century. This dwelling is representative of type at a regional level.



WYONG CREEK COMMUNITY HALL

Lot 1 DP 945671 Yarramalong Road, WYONG CREEK

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historically the hall is of regional significance for its association with the successful pioneering farms and families all centred on this location. Socially it has similar significance for the descendants of those families, while scientifically its scale provides it with regional significance for its potential to reveal information about the level and type of social interaction of a successful farming community in New South Wales in the early 20th Century. It has local rarity.



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Increased Flooding

The Wallarah 2 EIS has confirmed increased flooding as a result of subsidence. Impacts will occur to Trading businesses, telecommunications, Water Infrastructure Pipelines, Road access, School Attendance, Emergency access, Product Deliveries and increased Insurance claims + Premiums.

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Endangered Flora/Fauna

Animals and plants will be impacted by the Coalmine. There are a number of international waders, recorded under the Australian Government agreements with China and Japan, whose fragile habitat is entirely dependent upon the health of the water catchment river systems, and thirty-three (33) endangered or threatened species of flora and fauna within the Wyong / Jilliby catchment valleys.

Longwall coal mining not only poses a threat to the water supply, both surface and subsurface waters, but it also poses a threat to the habitat of the various endangered and threatened species of flora and fauna.

A report on Jilliby Creek, prepared in 2004 by River Care, in association with Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority, National Heritage Trust and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, declared this water system as one of the most pristine in New South Wales. This report also condemns the damage that will be caused by the impact of longwall coal mining.

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Water Catchment

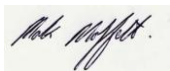
The water catchment area of Dooralong and Yarramalong Valleys in which the coal mine is proposed to travel under account for 50% of the water for the entire Central Coast region surrounding major hubs of The entrance, Gosford and Wyong and also being one of the largest population growth areas of Australia. The river systems are fed 2/3 by underground aquifers.

I own a property that borders the Wyong Creek Catchment river and I have personally encountered platypus, fish, eels, birds, wombats , kangaroos and echidnas surviving in and around the fresh water. The maps displayed to me at Kores premises (Wyong) indicate that the coal mine travels within 18 metres from the vertical line of the Wyong Creek ...some 550 metres below surface. The map contradicts any other maps circulated and distributed as marketing material.

The EIS clearly states that there will be significant loss of surface water from Wyong Creek as a result of mine subsidence. These valleys (Dooralong and Yarramalong) not only provide habitats to our native emblems and animals but also the most valued asset- Drinking WATER to our most valuable ASSET – HUMAN LIFE.

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Kind Regards,



Mark Moffett
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