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I strongly object to the Wallarah 2 Coal Project for the following reasons:

Science: Approval to this project was previously denied due to over 40 items relating to unacceptable damage or disturbance. The new EIS is essentially a revamped version of the previous one and doesn't address these issues (excessive subsidence, increasing flooding, water catchment reduction, air pollution...). I object to be submitted to stress and anguish whilst this project has no ground to be re-submitted.

Broken promise: Aware of the fact that my property was in a mine subsidence area, I acquired it on the basis of Mr B. O'Farrell's promise to ban mining in the Yarramalong and Duralong valleys if elected as premier.

Process: The process is designed in such a way that people concerned do not get an easy, user-friendly and timely access to information which will significantly and adversely affect their lives.

- The EIS is an extremely large and complex document which was put in exhibition for less than two months. That puts extreme pressure on working families like us to review the EIS.
- In the last week of May, I, received a letter dated "May 2013" from Wallarah 2 – the letter was not posted – no stamps - but delivered to my mailbox. My neighbours received the same generic letter on the same day. It announced the new release of the EIS (which happened a month prior to the day we received that letter!!!), and it broadly informed us that we should not worry about subsidence as the Mine Subsidence Board will compensate us. It's only upon digging into Appendix G (figure 5.6) and Appendix H (table D.01) that I learnt that I was in a 2.2m subsidence zone. A Kores spokesperson on ABC local radio (Gosford 17/6/13) said "people shouldn't be concerned, as this is a very long project, subsidence will only appear in over 10 years' time..." This is akin to saying: "you have a terminal illness, but do not be worried; you'll only die in 10 years' time...". The spokesperson went on: "in any case, once the project is underway we will come 2 years ahead of time to discuss the specifics with each resident concerned" I need to know NOW what remediation strategies will be offered for my assets, the water resources, the natural landscape, etc. Failing that, I can only but object this project.
- Why wasn't I (and the other 244 property owners in the Study Area) not contacted before that date and personally informed about subsidence specific to each case? This only left us less than three weeks to meet the submission deadline. Unacceptable.

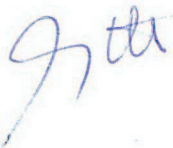
For all the reasons stated above, I find this process dishonest.

Misleading information: Misleading information was published in the Press Release: "the mining area is predominantly situated underneath Wyong State Forest". This is purposely worded to lull people into thinking "Well, that mining project is OK then, it will not affect our lives directly as it lays mostly under bushland" This statement is untrue as only less than a quarter of the study area lays in the Wyong State Forest. Over three quarters of the study area are made of the State Conservation Area, farmland, expanding suburbs, rivers and streams.

Livelihood: My property is marked as one to sustain one of the highest levels of subsidence (2.2m). I am told that remediation by the subsidence board is a lengthy process and also that it covers only houses. Left out are: infrastructure such as dams, sheds, fencing, land... I acquired my property both as a residence and as an agricultural concern. What will happen to the income derived from that activity after a 2.2 metre subsidence destroys my fences and sheds, takes away my dams and who will pay to restore this infrastructure to its former state?

Safety: A point of great concern to my family. How can we predict with certainty when and where a subsidence of this magnitude will occur? Will we be crushed under our house, fall into a sinkhole or will the two 330kV Transgrid high-voltage lines crisscrossing our property fall on us (The towers are only tension towers).

Greater good: On our property, we have started working with the Catchment Management Authority and NSW Environment & Heritage Department (Land for Wildlife scheme) to establish a framework for our agricultural activity that will preserve water quality on Myrtle Creek, control weed infestation and maintain wildlife on the edge of the State Conservation Area. Longwall mining operations have too many cases-gone-bad scenario that permanently damaged and altered the natural processes on stream and rivulets. The government is taking great pride in protecting these natural assets and mining under them is in complete contradiction with those strategies. ***The only justification for sacrificing pristine environments and valuable water catchments such as the ones found in the Yarramalong and Dooralong valleys would be, as a last resort, to address a pressing need of energy resources for Australia itself, definitely not to be squandered as export to a foreign power.***



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PS: This is a copy of the submission I made on your website. Having not received a ticket No. upon making that submission, I decided to address it again via mail.