

Barry O'Farrell

From: tony newman [tonynewman@tadaust.org.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 June 2013 12:25 PM
To: <office@premier.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Wallarah 2 Coal Project

from Tony Newman
84 Glen Rd.
Ourimbah 2258

Dear Premier,

You must not allow this project to proceed:

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project will be located within the Wyong Local Government Area, on the Central Coast of NSW, just north-east of Sydney and south of Newcastle.

The site proposes to mine 36 longwall panels underneath the Wyong State Forest. It will operate for 25 years extracting up to five million tonnes of export grade thermal coal per annum. The site will require three years for construction and will run 24 hours a day once operational. The project will also include coal handling facilities, rail loop and loading infrastructure, ventilation shafts, gas and water management facilities and maintenance and administration buildings.

Whilst the site is located wholly within the Tuggerah Lakes Basin, the extraction area lies in the Jilliby Jilliby Creek catchment. The mine and rail link will impact on Crown land, land owned by the Darkinjung Aboriginal Land Council, protected species habitat and historical and Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

This project application has already been refused once. In March 2011, the previous NSW Government refused the Wallarah 2 Coal Project application on the basis that the proponent failed to adequately address issues of water quality, ecological, subsidence and heritage impacts.

The proponent, Kores Ltd, has not made any substantial changes to their proposal and it remains to be against the public interest. It should therefore be once again rejected.

GROUND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

Approximately 300,000 people reside within the Wyong and Gosford area and 53% of the water catchment area supplying these residents is threatened by this mine application.

The recently completed \$80 million Mardi-Mangrove pipeline was funded by the Federal Government specifically to transfer water from this system to the Mangrove Dam on the escarpment during flood rains. The valleys above this mine regularly flood as recognised in the proponent's submission.

The site water management is inadequate because almost all management plans are merely observational. Some monitoring plans are not due to be created until two years into the operational life of the mine.

12/06/2013

AIR QUALITY AND DUST

Dust and noise from stockpiling and rail movements will impact on the established suburbs of Blue Haven, Wyee and all along the rail corridor from Morisset through Cardiff and southern suburbs to the port of Newcastle. The EIS fails to adequately address these impacts. The project should be refused based on the health risks associated with air pollution from mining, stockpiling and transporting coal.

Short-term exposure to particulate matter pollution can lead to diminished lung function, damage and inflammation of lung tissue, increased mortality rates in children and young adults, aggravation of asthma symptoms, heightened risk of cardiac arrhythmias, heart attacks and other cardiovascular issues.

FAILURE TO ADDRESS PREVIOUS CONCERNS

The Wallarah 2 Coal Project application has already been refused once, based on the proponent's failure to adequately address issues of water quality, ecological, subsidence and heritage impacts. The proponent has not made any substantial changes to their proposal and it remains to be against the public interest. It should therefore be rejected once and for all.

THREATENED SPECIES

The current EIS lists 37 recorded threatened and migratory fauna species and six vulnerable or endangered flora species within the project site. Many of these species are protected under state and federal legislation as well as international agreements. The key threats to these species include land clearing, change in habitat due to subsidence and alteration of water flow, wetlands and floodplains. All of these threats are possible effects of this project.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Five million tonnes of export grade thermal coal per annum represents a substantial contribution to NSW total carbon emissions and is in conflict with state and federal programs to reduce our contribution to global climate change.

The argument for continued coal-fired electricity in comparison to the long-term investment in renewable energy sources has not been adequately investigated. The government should perform a cost benefit comparison of investing the equivalent amount in renewable energy sources.

**Sincerely,
Tony Newman**