

Dooralong Valley Residents Association

c/- PO Box 3233 Tuggerah NSW 2259

17th June 2013

Director Mining Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

OBJECTION TO WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT APPLICATION NO. SSD – 4974

We object to the Wallarah 2 Coal Project on the following grounds:

- The extraction area is part of a major water supply catchment.
- The mine footprint is directly under water supply streams and the water supply aquifer.
- Potential for interruption to water supply.
- Disruption of the aquifer feeding water supply streams. It is directly beneath the major water flow-through of the underground aquifers. The aquifer provides approximately 68% of the water recharge to Jilliby Jilliby Creek and the Wyong Creek (River).
- Water quality will be impacted.
- Significant dependence on Groundwater by residents and agriculture in the extraction area and by Central Coast residences as the major harvesting area for the suburban water supply.
- The dependence of the newly completed Mardi-Mangrove pipeline link on the continual availability of water from the catchment area.
- Structural damage to water supply infrastructure, such as weirs, irrigation pipelines, pump stations has not been ruled out. Domestic infrastructure: dams, farm bridges, grazing areas and loss of service water.
- Reduction and/or destruction in farm produced income from subsidence and water loss.
- Jilliby Jilliby Creek and Little Jilliby Jilliby Creek that have been mapped are fault lines (trending west to east towards Mt. Alison) and Aquifers are directly above the proposed mine. Subsidence will create additional transient pathways

when intersecting these fault lines. It is reasonable to assume that these fault lines and other similar geological structures have been allowing water to seep from surface to coal seam post volcanism, which is how the water reached the coal seam in the first instance. Proof has been found on the bore cores, which show discrete areas of 'rust' (iron oxide).

- Wyong River and Wyong Creek are within the horizontal subsidence zone.
- Loss of the drinking water catchment. (The Dooralong and Yarramalong Valleys are the major water catchment area for the entire Central Coast.)
- Unacceptable subsidence impacts to 245 homes, outbuildings, agricultural industry, (including turf farms, livestock breeding, orchards, vegetables, bees, cattle) dams and roads within the mine footprint, and without appropriate mitigation strategies.
- Mining is a "key threatening process" for the extensive vegetation communities in the region that includes many threatened species. There are likely impacts arising on:
 - Wetlands.
 - Corridors.
 - Threatened species and habitats
- The development is likely to have far reaching impacts on vegetation beyond the immediate area of the mine head and stock piles, eg., the complete rail loop, introduction of *Phytophthora*.
- A likelihood of pollution in Tuggerah Lakes, which would cause an unacceptable loss of its biodiversity.
- Unacceptable loss of the biodiversity of the two valleys and the pristine nature of the environment.
- Potential destruction of the two major riparian corridors.
- A development of this scale has significant impacts on local training, community facilities and services, housing, schools, hospital, etc.
- It significantly increases demands on social/cultural/recreational services.
- Coal loader will be built adjacent to the largest growing urban area on the Central Coast and NSW, including the planned new city of Warnervale and the Wyong Employment Zone.
- Undue angst for people affected by subsidence and coal dust emissions.
- Wallarah 2 have not obtained a social licence (acceptance from the community) and have failed to adequately address community concerns or

consult with them. In particular there has been a total failure by the proponent to engage in a one-on-one discussion programme with landowners within the mine footprint. Distributed newsletters have done no more than promote Wallarah 2 propaganda, lulling landowners into a false sense of security that there will be no impact upon their properties.

- Potential for dust generation throughout construction and operation of the project, including along the entire rail corridor, and wide spread emissions of fine dust particles across the urban growth area of the North Wyong Region when the mine is operating.
- The potential for release of methane gas despite programmes to extract it in advance of mining operations.
- Problems associated with coal dust (respiratory and skin disease) being transported on the wind. (The Central Coast already has one of the highest incidents of respiratory ailments in NSW and in Australia due to the proximity of the power stations).
- Mortality from fine airborne coal dust emissions as clearly in the Wallarah 2 Executive Summary (page xi) and Appendix M, pages 6 - 17 of the Health Assessment Risks.
- There is significant potential for generation of noise and vibration arising from construction, operation and coal transport.
- This would be occurring in a quiet rural setting and adjacent to the largest growing urban area on the Central Coast.
- Potential for noise and vibration impacts on local fauna.
- Increased flooding for many properties due to subsidence and five homes being pushed into the 1 in 100 flooding zone. Since 1981 there has been the equivalent of six 1 in 100 floods in the Dooralong Valley.

Yours faithfully

Dooralong Valley Residents Association



for
Ron Sokolowski
President.