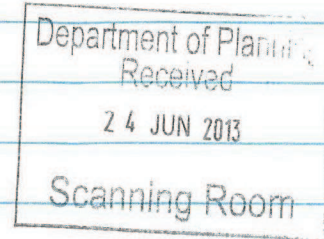




PCU045545

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18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT

Application No. SSD-4974

PLEASE NOTE: I submit this objection as an addendum to my previous submission or this one will replace it.

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to know how in the 21st century, in this so called age of "Environmental Awareness" that consideration can EVEN be given to a "dirty" coal mine. Constant discussions by politicians regarding the threat of global warming to our planet from carbon emissions is almost a daily occurrence in the media. The burning of fossil fuels is considered one of the major contributors to these carbon emissions. How then, can you in good conscience consider another "dirty" coal mine that is going to extract up to 5 million tonnes of polluting coal each year for up to 40 years. We are supposed to be enlightened and turning our direction towards Green Energies.

Why should we Central Coast residents have to live with the distress and fear of having to fight for our precious water and way of life again when the application for the Wallarah 2 Project was already refused back in March 2011 by the previous NSW Govt. because of unacceptable impacts on our water, fragile ecosystems, threats to endangered species and also heritage listed sites. Kores Ltd have not made any substantial changes to its new

proposal, so it should again be rejected in the public interest.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to the devastating potential impact this mine will have to the water supply and sensitive aquifers of the Central Coast. The proposed mine will be underneath water catchment areas, crucial to supplying 53% of the whole of the Central Coasts water supply. Kores Ltd cannot guarantee that this water catchment area will not be compromised.

This is simply not a risk that can be taken with the Central Coasts water supply

I have lived on the Central Coast for 11 years now and for the first seven of those years the Central Coast was in severe drought which took water levels in our dams to record lows. The community had to endure harsh water restrictions for years. The Govt. and both Wyong & Gosford Council made a huge investment of \$120 million to build the Mardi to Mangrove Creek dams "missing link" pipeline to rectify the critical water shortage. This major infrastructure would also be severely impacted by subsidence from the mine, or possibly fractured and lost.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to myself and my family being exposed to coal dust and other air born contaminants that will cause many serious health problems eg. varying degrees of breathing difficulties and even death according to the Wallarah 2's own EIS. Even one death is one too many but there are sure to be many more than that. The Central Coast has an aging population as well as many young families especially in the newer suburbs such as Blue Haven and soon to be built Warnervale housing developments. These newer suburbs, full of young children are within 1 to 2 km of the Wallarah 2 rail head. These children and the elderly are the most vulnerable of our community and would be at greater risk.

I read with great concern yesterday of a report just released that the Mt. Isa coal mine in QLD is causing many health issues with the community due to air born heavy metals in the dust. It is also responsible for

lead poisoning in the local community. These types of health risks are absolutely deplorable. I do not want these health issues for my family, caused by coal mining by an overseas company who are only motivated by money and taking our resources. They will pack up and walk away leaving all these consequences and having little or no concern for the residents and Governments who will have to pick up the bill for generations to come.

What about the consequences of massive blowouts to Health Budgets for future Governments and overcrowding of hospitals unable to cope because of the detrimental effects to the health of the very young and elderly dying horrible deaths. The Govt. (meaning we) will still be paying for this long after Kores have returned to Korea with all our coal.

I AM EXTREMELY CONCERNED that to my knowledge, Wallarah 2 EIS has not addressed the impact of an earthquake in the area and how much greater the potent damage of a quake would be exacerbated because of a long wall mine. It is a known fact that this area is already geologically unstable.

On 28<sup>th</sup> December 1989, Newcastle had a disastrous 5.6 magnitude earthquake killing 13 people, injuring 160 and doing varying degrees of damage to 50,000 buildings.

An article in the Sydney Morning Herald January 9<sup>th</sup> 2007 by Wendy Frew an environmental reporter, told of a report by Dr Christian Klose (Dr of Sciences for Researches on Natural Hazards & Sustainable Development, from Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, America).

You can google the article, but in short Dr Klose said a major fault beneath Newcastle's coalfields was reactivated after coal was extracted and water was pumped out to keep the long wall mines dry. He believes this may have contributed to Newcastle's earthquake. In his paper, presented to the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco late 2006, Dr Klose said geomechanical pollution - ie the removal of millions of tonnes of coal and FOUR times as much water - had significantly changed the stress field in the earth's upper crust below the Newcastle coalfield since 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr Klose feels the risk of earthquakes should be taken into account

when planning where such facilities were located. He also said a change to mining practices could reduce the risk of earthquakes, but he did not know of any mining engineers researching the topic because they were not aware of the risk.

This is something that should be dealt with in an E.I.S.

On 10th September 2012, the Central Coast was also shaken by an earthquake. Hugh Granville, spokesman for Geoscience Aust. told Fairfax Radio Network that a 3.2 magnitude earthquake occurred approx. 60 km offshore from Woy Woy. Hugh said that quakes of this magnitude are common in the area.

Earthquakes on the Central Coast are already a reality. Will having a long wall mine under a pristine water catchment area, and being in such close proximity to such a large number of homes, create the potential for a much greater disaster.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to having to just accept the fact that damage inevitable will occur to my home and property as a result of subsidence. If the mine goes ahead, why should I have to just sit by and wait to see just what degree of damage will be done and how will I be compensated? My property will be de-valued and I will not be able to sell it. Another major fear I have is that I have a lot of huge, very old trees around my home. Any subsidence near the trees will cause them to fall on my house probably killing some or all of my family that are home at the time. This will be another possible death threat hanging over my head if the mining project goes ahead. Any productive farmland in the valleys will become unviable in the future when subsidence destroys it.

The Climate Change Commission is already predicting that oceans will rise up to a metre because of Global Warming and we are experiencing 1 in 100 year extreme weather events occurring at a rate of 1-5 frequency and getting worse. Yet this country, which has the highest Carbon Tax in the world, still has no conscience about selling "dirty" coal to countries who will burn these fossil fuels and create more pollution in the atmosphere.

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Please I urge you to have an environmental conscience and REJECT this mine outright.

There should be no mining of any kind occurring under sensitive water catchment areas because of the inherent risks.

Our water and this planet are our most precious resources and should be protected at all costs.

Valerie Williams

18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

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