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244 Doonan Bridge Rd
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21/06/13

Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

The NSW Government is considering, for the second time, the proposal for the Wallarah 2 coal mine. This mine would result in the extraction of up to 5 million tonnes of polluting coal each year for 28 years in an area north-west of Wyong, undermining several waterways. This project has already been refused once by the previous government, due to unacceptable impacts on water, ecosystems and heritage sites.

This project should be rejected once and for all.

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed policy.

KEY POINTS OF OBJECTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

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.

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

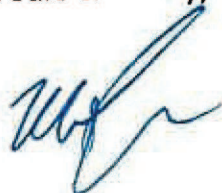
The current EIS lists 37 recorded threatened and migratory fauna species and six vulnerable or endangered flora species within the project site. Many of these species are protected under state and federal legislation as well as international agreements. The key threats to these species include land clearing, 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 the NSW 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.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Jones