

BATEAU BAY – SHELLY BEACH

Progress Association Inc

Uniting our community

PO Box 3029 Bateau Bay 2261

Department of Planning and Environment
Attn: Director – Resource Assessments
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

05 August 2016

Dear Director

Re Wallarah 2 Coal Project SSD 4974 Amended Development Application

It is with considerable frustration that we find ourselves writing yet another letter in opposition to this proposal. Our previous correspondence was in 2013 and 2014 and we reaffirm the comments contained therein.

As stated previously, the original application for this proposal was rejected by the Labor State Government. At the time, the then Planning Minister Mr Tony Kelly was reported as saying *“the Wallarah 2 coal mine proposal had been refused due to “unresolved concerns” regarding water, subsidence, ecological and heritage impacts.”* He said that the proponent *“failed to demonstrate the mine could proceed without “unacceptable environmental risk”*. (<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/nsw-govt-rejects-wallarah-2-coal-mine-20110304-1bheq.html>).

Since then, scientific methodologies and modelling techniques have become more robust. Reports of the damage done by mining have become more compelling. Mining is a risk to water supply, community health, environment, amenity, and to ecological and heritage assets. It also risks causing subsidence which impacts on residential properties, infrastructure (dams, roads and the like) as well as natural water courses and ecosystem function.

We note that the amended proposal involves:

- Removal of the previously proposed rail loop
- Re-location of the secondary rail track and train loading facility to the eastern side of the main northern rail line
- A conveyor system to deliver coal from a stockpile at the proposed Tooheys Road surface facilities site to the new train loading facility location
- Realignment of a sewer connection.

The above changes may well obviate the need for the Proponent to acquire the consent of the custodians of the Darkinjung Lands but it does nothing to address the unacceptable risks this

proposal poses. Air and water are essential to life. This project threatens to seriously degrade both; for some people the damage may prove irreversible.

Our Association strongly and specifically objects to your government imposing these risks upon us. We consider that the predicted negative impacts are not only reasonably foreseeable, they are almost guaranteed.

Furthermore, we reject the claims that the proposal is going to be of great benefit to the Central Coast. We reject any attempt to portray this Proposal as some sort of benevolent exercise when it is purely a commercially driven enterprise. Whilst there may well be some employment prospects for a limited number of Central Coast residents, the costs to health and to the environment will be suffered by far more people.

In addition to the local disadvantages of this proposal, Australia's international reputation will be demeaned by approval of this mining proposal. We should be at the forefront of renewable energy generation not increasing our contribution to carbon emissions. Further, energy generation should be consistent with state and federal objectives to reduce our contribution to climate change.

To conclude, it is against the public interest to approve the mine. It is contrary to principles of ESD, the precautionary principle, and both intergenerational and intragenerational equity. Your Department is obliged to make decisions made that will not burden the younger generations with the consequences of short-sighted, ill-conceived proposals. We would like to be able to rely on our elected representatives to make decisions of integrity.

We consider it is entirely indefensible to approve the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine proposal and that any approval would demonstrate complete and utter contempt for Central Coast residents. We object to the Proposal in all its forms and call on your Department to reject it absolutely.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Louise Greenaway".

Louise Greenaway
Secretary