

s16<sup>th</sup> August 2016

93 Birdwood Drive, Blue Haven. 2262

The Director  
Planning Services  
Dept of Planning and Environment  
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SYDNEY 2001



**Wallarah 2 Coal Project SSD 4974 Amended Development Application**

I live at Blue Haven and am amazed that proposals have been lodged to carry out coal loading from conveyor belt onto coal wagons so close to our residential area. There will be coal dust, lights and noise every day of the week and even at night. There are many residents living close to the Link Road and have to endure the ever increasing traffic, so coal loading activities will be an added pressure on their health and sanity.

I was living at Buff Point prior to 2000 when a coal mine was active at Budgewoi and I remember the constant black dust on our windows and car.

In 1998 in Buff Point, there were great lengths of subsidence (up to one metre depth) along the lakes edge – caused by the slipping of the ‘walls’ of the earlier long-wall mining method. This subsidence caused partial collapse of a number of houses.

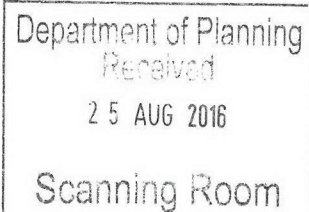
There was also drastic subsidence along the margin of Lake Macquarie at the buffering area beside the fresh water lagoon, Colongra Swamp. This area of wetland had been designated as important for international migratory birds and protected by NSW Legislation under S.E.P.P. 14<sup>1</sup>. I carried out the monitoring of vegetation and water salinity of this area to determine whether the lowered area would continue to buffer the lagoon.

Now 12 years later, I notice because of the occasional overflow from the lake or outflow from heavy rains, the buffer area is gradually eroding and significantly lowering. When the salt water will fully enter the lagoon, the migratory birds will lose their fresh water habitat – and this has come about because of the subsidence from mining.

And most important is our precious drinking water supply and protection of our ground water. This would be greatly threatened by mining. It is ridiculous in this modern time that mining is continued near residential and food producing areas.

The whole project should be refused and the Coal Loader amendments rejected.

Yours sincerely,  
Beverley Durkin.



<sup>1</sup> NSW Legislation State Environmental Planning No. 14 – Coastal Wetlands: ensures coastal wetlands of “high natural value” are preserved and protected for environmental and economic reasons