

PCU066727

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017

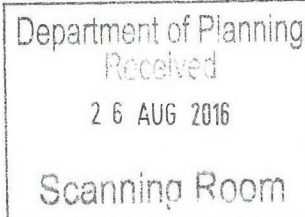
The Director

Planning Services

Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir,

Re. WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT SSD 4974 AMENDED DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

I wish to object to the current ADA on exhibition that has been lodged with the Planning Assessment Commission, on public exhibition for six weeks to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016, and also to the further progression of the mine proposal itself. The application portrays the economic benefits and job figures for the whole project and does not confine itself clearly to this Amendment alone.

Kores the proponent, is withdrawing from overseas development due to massive debt ratios as recently expressed in the Korean press, and this tells our Central Coast community that the future job prospects, development and most importantly environmental repair, compensation and rehabilitation have very little hope of being realised.

#### POINTS OF OBJECTION

##### Costs/Benefits

Page 85 of the ADA states that the royalties to the State over the proposed 28 years life of the mine is \$200 Million, which will equate to just over \$7 Million per annum. With coal prices falling and with Government concessional rebates this figure is inflated. Damage from subsidence particularly in the Jilliby Valley water catchment and Hue Hue subdivisions, easily negates the benefits to the State and local authorities. It has been noted that The Mines Subsidence Board over the last ten years has only accepted about a quarter of claims and will fight any great expense claimed by those who suffer subsidence.

## EMPLOYMENT

Pages 86 & 87 state job creation beginning with 79 through to direct and indirect job figures in Year 2 of 1,111 jobs. This application states very clearly that this assessment is only looking at this Amendment and not the whole Project, yet job figures are obviously being included for the whole project such as a larger "intersectoral linkages" job quotation during construction of 1605 direct and indirect jobs.

Because the original rail spur is not being built and will be replaced by a conveyor system (essentially being the main thrust of this Amendment) does not create an additional 1605 jobs for the whole Project as configured above. As in the original EIS the job prospects are not defined and again, highly inflated and misleading.

## DUST, HEALTH, NOISE

Importantly dust remains a real health threat for Blue Haven and Wyee precincts despite partial coverage of infrastructure. Uncovered coal wagons will travel to Newcastle via various suburbs, affecting them with dust problems too. Also this project exacerbates the problem adding to congestion toward the Newcastle terminal. Any train breakdowns will affect travellers and commuters badly as the line will be shared with passenger trains.

Pm10 emissions from the site are conservative and do not take into account the changing natures of intense wind and storm events in recent years. Blue Haven and Wyee townships are now as close as 200 and 400 metres respectively from the new proposal bringing even greater problems for families in the area and prospective developmental areas 24 hrs per day. There are many schools, pre-schools and establishments within 5 km of the facility and they will suffer greatly should this project be approved. Please refer back to the submission by Dr Peter Lewis, Area Director of Public Health for North Sydney and Central Coast wherein he outlines greater risks to children and health sufferers in this region should this project be approved.

Senior Office of Environment and Heritage have diverted plans to have an air monitor installed at Wyee and now place it in an out-of-influence area at Wyong Racecourse thereby distorting air quality readings for the region. Appendix C from the consultants (pages 2 & 3) says: "Fugitive emissions can be expected during operation from loading stockpile to conveyor, wind erosion and maintenance of stockpiles and from upcast ventilation shafts."

Noise exceedences are admitted to for "residences to the north of Bushells Ridge Road at Wyee" and general noise 24 hrs per day for those living Blue Haven and Wyee areas and this is an issue of great concern.



## UNRESOLVED ISSUE FROM EIS 2014

Massive subsidence figures represented in the proponents EIS affect 245 homes and their infrastructure, 86 of which are destined to suffer a metre or more right up to 2.3 metres and the valley floor suffering subsidence up to 1.8 metres fall right up to 2.6 metres near the Jilliby Conservation Area provokes "inevitable uncertainty concerning subsidence predictions" as a PAC principal finding. The regular flooding of the Jilliby Valley means that this proposal condemns the area to degradation and to long periods of separation from facilities and emergency services.

The woeful performance of The Mine Subsidence Board over the past ten years regarding any subsidence claims does not protect residents as is claimed in the application.

The project predicts risk of reduced availability of water for the Central Coast Water Supply according to the PAC wherein they "recommended there should be no net impact on potential catchment yield". The Central Coast water catchment supply in the Wyong Valleys is at real risk of destruction due to massive subsidence and loss of potable water to the mine area below.

Wallarah 2 have failed continuously to consult with any of the people directly affected by the proposal, held any open public meeting explaining the project and have failed to bring to the public any concept drawing of the new conveyor system and loading facility near Blue Haven.

This Amendment should be rejected and the whole project put aside due to the many areas of risk.

Yours faithfully, *B F Donaldson*

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