

The Director

Planning Services

Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39 SYDNEY 2001

Dear Sir.

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

I wish to object to the current ADA on exhibition and also to the further progression of the mine proposal itself. The application portrays the economic benefits and job figures clearly for the whole project and does not confine itself to this Amendment alone.

### **POINTS OF OBJECTION**

#### **Costs/Benefits**

Page 85 of the ADA states that the royalties to the State over the proposed and improbable 28 years life of the mine is \$200 Million which equates to just over \$7 million per annum. With falling coal prices and Government concessional rebates this figure is inflated. Taking into account the costs of repair and rehabilitation, particularly in the Jilliby Valley water catchment and Hue Hue subdivisions following subsidence, easily negates the benefits to the State and local authorities. By adding the long term cost to public health and to greater airborne diseases in the population it begins to look like a costly enterprise for the public purse.

Also, if this Application were to be approved and if the company actually commenced mining it may follow the accounting practises of numerous other overseas based companies so that there would be little or no income tax or company tax paid to our country.

#### **Employment**

.Pages 86 and 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 the 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.

The conveyor system landlocks Darkinjung ALC land, downgrades value and restricts projected developments and therefore threatens hundreds of valuable jobs in construction which is totally unacceptable.

## **Dust, Health and Noise**

.Dust remains a real issue for health in the Blue Haven and Wye precincts despite partial coverage of infrastructure. There is no attempt to cover coal wagons which will travel through the southern suburbs to Newcastle affecting all those communities of southern Lake Macquarie and Newcastle as has been demonstrated in the Hunter to Port line. There has been great concern about the mapping of coal dust and the lack of authorities to control those emissions.

Pm10 emissions from the site are conservative as usual and do not take into account the changing nature of intense wind and storm events in the recent years. Blue Haven and Wye townships are now as close as 200 and 400 metres respectively from the new proposal bringing even greater problems for families in the area for both constant dust and noise 24 h/per day with a huge overhead structure on the main rail line and loading hopper. There are many schools, pre-schools and establishments within 5kms of the facility and they will suffer from emissions from the site.

Please refer back to the submission by Dr. Peter Lewis, Area Director of Public Health for North Sydney and the Central Coast wherein he outlines greater risks to children and health sufferers in this region should this project be approved.

Noise levels are admitted to for “residences to the north of Bushells Ridge Road at Wye” and general noise 24 hours per day for those living in Blue Haven and Wye areas are a serious concern.

## **Unresolved issue from the 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 drop 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 in refusing the vast majority of claims State-wide for subsidence may 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.

My home is just a few hundred metres from the Buttonderry Site of this proposed Coal Mine which, if approved, will extract coal from beneath my home and cause the land to subside. Most of the homes in my area are not connected to the town water supply or sewerage system. We rely on the rainwater collected on our roofs and stored in tanks of substantial capacity for all our requirements. Liquid waste is treated by on-site Aerated Waste Water Treatment plants. Air pollution and dust from the proposed mine will contaminate the air I breathe, my drinking water, damage my roof and degrade the efficiency of my solar PV panels and solar hot water unit. Subsidence would almost certainly cause damage to the houses, tanks, pipes, underground power lines and Treatment Plants of all those who live above this proposed mine.

Some years ago at Chain Valley Bay (Lake Macquarie) there was serious land subsidence due to coal mining which damaged houses, flooded residential land and bushland causing many mature trees to die. A similar disaster could easily happen in Jiliby and Dooralong Valley on a far greater scale.

This Amendment should be rejected, as should the whole project due to being impractical and the damage it would cause to properties, health and lifestyle if it were to be approved.

Yours faithfully

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