



Central Coast Greens

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5 September 2016

Dr N Shepherd, Mr J Woodward and Mr G West,
Commission Secretariat,
GPO BOX 3415,
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Dear Dr Shepherd, Messrs Woodward and West,

SSD-4974 Amended DA (ADA) Wallarah 2

The Central Coast Greens reject ADA number SSD-4974 for Wallarah 2 coal mine in Wyong, NSW.

We previously rejected the Development Application SSD-4974 on a number of grounds, some of which are revisited here as the current ADA has not satisfactorily addressed these concerns. Additionally, new concerns will be presented which have arisen in this ADA.

Our primary reason for rejecting this ADA could be referred to as loss of resident amenity for those who move into this urban growth area, particularly the Darkinjung housing development. Loss of residential amenity encompasses the following:
Increased levels of road traffic, particularly during construction stages with its effect on
* highly localised diesel pollution from trucks, increased road mortality, destruction of local infrastructure assets, stress due to increased ambient noise;

*noise levels, from truck and train movements, coal loading activities;

*dust levels PM10, PM2.5 and PM1.0 are known to increase mortality levels, both in workers and residents. Although there are no limits to PM2.5 and PM1.0 in Australia, this is not world's best practice and we should be implementing USEPA standards (1997). In the Hunter Valley, the national standard for PM10 pollution was exceeded 171 times in 2013 (Environmental Justice Australia 2014). Even the proponents initial DA concedes that dust from this proposal will directly increase mortality rates in the Central Coast airshed by up to 11 people p.a. for each of the thirty years proposed duration of this proposal. This is a completely unacceptable outcome of this proposal. That this increased mortality level shall fall disproportionately upon children, pregnant women, elderly people, asthmatics and people with chronic disease (especially heart and lung diseases) and low socio-economic groups (op.cit.) is further evidence of the unacceptability of this proposal.

*loss of visual amenity through the ability to see mine and associated operations over the treelike due to the height of associated facilities and equipment. This would extend to visible, bright light pollution during the 24 hr/day, 7 d/wk operations of this development.

Further objections are that uncovered (including unwashed empty) coal wagons will be moving through residential areas. This will again increase the dust loadings on these communities, with the effects outlined above. It is noted that despite repeated Hunter Valley community requests, over 100 coal trains continue to move through this area without covering of their load or washing out of empty wagons (op.cit.).

Finally, the threat of this proposal to the Central Coast's potable water supply and the investment of \$125 million on recently built facilities to supply this water to a population rapidly approaching 330 000 people warrants the use by the federal environment minister to exercise his rights to utilise the water trigger of the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (Cwlth) (1999) to stop this proposal.

The Central Coast Greens completely reject this proposal for the reasons outlined above and, should they be held, would be pleased to present this case to a Planning and Assessment hearing addressing this ADA.

Yours sincerely,

D J Williamson

References:

Environmental Justice Australia 2014 **Clearing the Air: Why Australia Urgently Needs Effective National Air Pollution Laws**. Environmental Justice Australia, Carlton Victoria. www.envirojustice.org.au [Accessed 5.9.2016]

USEPA 1997 National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter, 40CFR Part 50