

1st September, 2016

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Department of Planning and Environmental Assessment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Director of Resources.

Ref: Environmental Assessment SSD4974.Wallarah 2 Coal Project (W2CP).
Wyong District Water Supply Catchment.

SUBMISSION

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Jilliby and have resided in W2CP area for 44 years. I oppose this project and consider it to be a Third-World type public disaster in the making. No evidence submitted by the proponent quantifies and/or qualifies this project as being in accord with the Duty of Care.

Quote: The responsibility or the legal obligation of a person or organization to avoid acts or omissions, which can be reasonably foreseen to be likely to cause harm to others. It is a requirement that a person act toward others and the public with watchfulness, attention, caution and prudence that a reasonable person in the circumstances would. If a person's actions do not meet this standard of care, then the acts are considered negligent and any damages resulting may be claimed in a lawsuit for negligence. Unquote.

This long-wall coal mine is within Wyong Water Supply Catchment District of a population of some 310,000, and is managed by Gosford/Wyong Council Water Authority, would be at variance with NSW Water Management Act 2000 and the Commonwealth Natural Water Initiative 2004 under the National Water Commission.

I invite your attention to a Central Coast Regional Statutory Plan 2008, which projects a population growth of 400,000 by 2036. The foreword in this plan by the honourable S. F. Sartor Minister for Environment and Planning (at that time) illustrated a number of admirable objectives including future reviews of the strategy will continue to monitor the regions water supply and the final Central Coast Strategy will ensure that this population growth is accommodated that preserves and enhances the quality of life for the Region's residents, whilst also protecting the natural environment. This declaration would be in accord with

DUTY OF CARE but there is no evidence whatsoever that the consideration of Duty Of Care has been applied in determinations regarding W2's CP.

W2CP is incompatible with the research undertaken and clearly confirms that mining under 37 square kilometres of Wyong Water Catchment will cause excessive mining subsidence within the overburden. This will destroy the aquifers in the Dooralong Valley which currently supply potable public water resources to Wyong Shire and Gosford City residents. The proponent also confirms that subsidence levels will be in excess of those in the southern coalfields.

The evidence provided clearly confirms that mining beneath 37 square kilometres of Wyong Water Catchment will also create subsidence levels in excess of those in the southern coalfields. This subsidence has the potential to create new wetlands, ascetic waters and critical changes to the water chemistry. Destruction of the aquifers and "depressurisation" (over catchment areas) will destroy in perpetuity the water regimes and the hydrological dynamic balance within the Dooralong Valley.

Depressurisation has been determined to extend over a period in excess of 200 years, and some 42 years of this period will be progressive mining development during coal panel recovery. Indeterminable subsidence occurrences and measurable changes in the hydro-geological properties will continue to create environmental degradation.

The valley's catchment areas contain some 33 species protected under NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995. A further 27 species are protected under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC Act 1999) which includes 19 avian migratory waders recorded in the catchment wetlands and estuarine areas of Tuggerah Lakes. These species are of national and international significance and subject to treaty agreements between the Australian Commonwealth Government and the governments of the Republic of China (CAMBA 1986) and Japan (JAMBA 1974).

The coal mining industry attempts to justify damage in the greater interest of jobs and economic State development and this situation is obvious in their attempt to ignore the criticism of their planning and presentation of the WC2CP which the community have raised over the last 8 years. The negative aspects of this proposed coalmine and the environmental degradation it will introduce throughout the area is not acceptable and contrary to protecting its ecological integrity.

Thank you.

R. E. Sokolowski