

The Director

Planning Services

Dept of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

19th August 2016

Amended Development Application - Wallarah 2 Coal Project SSD 4974

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

LIST OF OBJECTIONS

Costs & Benefits

The Korean press recently expressed the very real fact that the proponent Kores is withdrawing from overseas development due to massive debt ratios. This only indicates to the community that the future job prospects, development and the vitally important environmental repair, compensation and rehabilitation, have very little hope of being realised.

In the ADA on page 85 it states that royalties that will go to the State during the proposed and unlikely 28 years life of the mine will be \$200 Million equals out to approximately just over \$7 million per year. Because of falling coal prices and Government concessional rebates this figure is inflated.

This is totally unachievable when you also have to factor in all the State and local authorities costs required to repair and rehabilitate the site; pay compensation for all the homes damaged by subsidence in the Hue Hue subdivisions; repair and rehabilitation to the Jilliby Valley water catchment area; cost to repair all roads damaged by subsidence; cost of repair of damage to the Mardi Link Pipeline to Mangrove Creek Dam; cost of the on-going long term health problems and air borne diseases to the young and the elderly. This mine proposal cannot possibly be a money maker for the State of NSW. When all the relevant factors are considered, this can only end up a major financial disaster and cost to the Taxpayers of NSW.

Jobs

This Amended Development Application **clearly states** that this assessment is looking **only** at **this** Amendment and not the whole Project. On pages 86 and 87 it states that job creation beginning with 79 through to direct and indirect job figures in year 2 of 1,111 jobs. Why then does the Amendment include job figures that are obviously being included for the whole project such as a larger "intersectoral linkages" job quotation during construction of 1605 direct and indirect jobs.

The conveyor system that is going to replace the original rail spur (essentially the main thrust of this Amendment) does not create an additional 1605 jobs for the whole project as stated above. As in the original EIS the job prospects are not defined and are again highly inflated and misleading.

Health/ Dust and Noise

I **strongly object** to my family and myself being exposed to coal dust and other air born contaminants that will cause many serious health problems eg: varying degrees of breathing difficulties and even death according to the Wallarah 2's own EIS. Even one death is one too many but there are sure to be many more than that.

There are homes that will be within a few hundred metres and pre-schools, schools and nursing homes and a hospital within 5 kilometres of the coal loader and conveyor belt. The finer particles of coal dust is going to cause significant health problems for the young and the elderly particularly in the Blue Haven and Wyee areas, but also in the wider population as these fine emissions can be carried great distances in severe wind and storm events. As there will only be partial coverage of infrastructure and no attempt will be made to cover coal wagons, coal dust will also become a risk to residents as the uncovered coal wagons travel through the southern suburbs of Newcastle affecting all the communities of southern Lake Macquarie and Newcastle as seen in the Hunter to Port line.

In a previous submission by Dr Peter Lewis, area Director of Public Health for North Sydney and the Central Coast where he details greater risks to children and the infirm in this region should this project be approved.

It is admitted that there will be noise that exceeds acceptable levels for *"residences to the north of Bushells Ridge Road at Wyee"* and general noise and lights 24 hours per day for those living in Blue Haven and Wyee areas that are a concern. Sleep deprivation can create can also lead to serious health and mental health issues.

What about the consequences of massive blowouts to Health Budgets for future Governments and overcrowding of hospitals unable to cope because of the effects to the health of the very young and the elderly dying horrible deaths. The Government (meaning *"WE the Taxpayers"*) will be still paying for this long after Kores have returned to Korea with all our coal.

This project will add to the congestion toward the Newcastle terminal caused by the need for added times of daily rail crossing closures at Adamstown and Islington. These times need to be disclosed to the Newcastle community. Another thing that should be taken into account is the possibility of major disruption to rail commuters heading north in the event of breakdowns of coal trains and blockage of rail lines.

ISSUES STILL UNRESOLVED FROM 2014 EIS

I **strongly object** to having to just accept the fact that damage *inevitably* will occur to my home and property as a result of subsidence. If the mine goes ahead, why should I have to just sit by and wait and see just what degree of damage will be done and how will I be compensated? My property will be de-valued and I would not be able to sell it. Another major fear I have is that I have a lot of huge, very old trees around my home. Any subsidence near these trees will cause them to fall on my house probably killing some or all of my family that are home at the time. This will be another possible death threat hanging over my head if the mining project goes ahead. Any productive farming land in the valleys will become un-viable in the future when subsidence destroys it.

The PAC's principal finding was *"inevitable uncertainty concerning subsidence predictions"*. Presented in the proponents own EIS were massive subsidence figures that identified that 245 homes and their surrounding infrastructure, 86 of which are destined to suffer a metre or more drop and 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. the Jilliby Valley regularly floods already and this proposal condemns the area to degradation and to long periods of being blocked from normal facilities and Emergency Services. **This is a totally unacceptable situation that this would place us residents in. Our homes and properties will be destroyed.....how would you like to have yourself be suddenly thrown into this situation of having your home destroyed by subsidence and you are powerless to do anything about it.**

ISSUES STILL UNRESOLVED FROM 2014 EIS (Cont.)

The Central Coasts 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. The PAC said *"The project predicts risk of reduced availability of water for the Central coast Water Supply"* and so the PAC *"Recommended there should be no net impact on potential catchment yield"*!

Earthquakes on the Central Coast are already a reality. Will having a long wall mine under a pristine water catchment area and being in such close proximity of such a large number of homes, create the potential for a much greater disaster?

The woeful performance of the Mine Subsidence Board in refusing the vast majority of claims statewide for subsidence year after year does not protect residents as is claimed in the application.

Please I urge you on behalf of myself and the 320,000 other residents of the Central Coast whose water you will be putting under threat if this mine is approved, to have an environmental conscience and reject this mine outright.

Australia is one of the driest continents in the world so we should be protecting the precious little water that we have At All Costs !!!! There should be no mining of any kind occurring under water catchment areas because of the inherent risks.

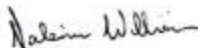
Premier Baird has removed our right to go directly to the Land and Environment Court and argue our case on Merit Appeal. Baird has removed that legal right from every community fighting coal or gas in NSW.

How dare the Government remove what is our fundamental democratic right to appeal a severely flawed approval process that could possibly cause an environmental disaster for the residents of the Central Coast. I was under the impression that Australia was a democratic country and this State government was not given a Mandate to remove our democratic rights.

Our water and this planet are our most precious resources and should be protected at all costs.

Kores Ltd cannot guarantee that this water catchment area will not be compromised.

Yours respectfully



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