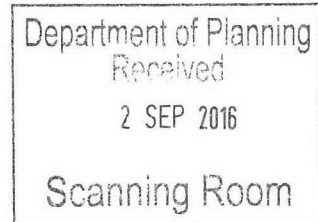




Driftwood Lodge
195 Birdwood Drive
BLUE HAVEN NSW 2262

27th August 2016

The Director
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Dear Sir

Re: Wallarah 2 Project SSD 4974 Amended Development Application

I hereby register my strong objection to the Amended Development Application for the Wallarah 2 Project.

It is totally against my will that this application receives approval. There are numerous concerns raised by the proposal to mine under the Wyong Valleys and the positioning of the coal loading facility within a short distance of the existing village of Blue Haven and the site of another housing development.

Concerns include but are not limited to the following:

Water:

The NSW State Government has spent significant monies on the construction of a pipeline to enable water to be pumped from the Wyong water catchment to Mangrove Dam, to support the government driven expansion of population on the Central Coast.

The proposed long wall mining is not only below the level of the water table but will ensure subsidence in the mined area, therefore the possible loss of water from the surface system that exists cannot be ignored. Greg Hunt, Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry and Science, recently said that "we can never take risks with water." An approval of this amended application would be taking a significant risk.

The risk of contamination to the water supply from mining activity, through the mining and subsequent treatment of coal during transport to the coal loader, storage and loading which will undoubtedly result in leaching of contaminants into both the potable water and the Tuggerah Lakes System is unacceptable.

Environment of the Tuggerah Lakes System:

There exists the possibility of contamination of water and waste materials into the local water ways of Spring and Wallarah Creeks, which feed into Budgewoi Lake and thus into the Tuggerah Lakes system as a whole.

This would endanger both the local fishing industry and tourism industry.

The Tuggerah Lakes System is:

A nursery ground for marine creatures and supports commercial fishing

A popular recreational and tourist area that has been regarded as the jewel in the crown of the previous Wyong Shire area.

Air Pollution:

The adverse health effects of dust, including fine particulate matter has been documented and acknowledged by health authorities. The siting of a coal loading facility unacceptably close to an existing population, including two primary schools and one high school, constitutes an acceptable health risk to people in the area. Residents with exiting health issues, particularly respiratory and or cardiac problems could also be placed at risk of stress and possible mental health issues as well as having existing conditions exacerbated. Winds would undoubtedly extend the affected areas during a year.

Subsidence:

This is recognised to cause damage to a number of properties and this will undoubtedly cause stress to those whose properties are so affected. Past local experience, with people seeking compensation for damage, has resulted in ongoing health problems for those so affected. The admission of subsidence creates an unacceptable risk to properties and residents health.

Light and Noise Pollution:

The operation of a coal loading facility with 250 metres of an existing population would subject residents to excessive noise and light pollution and would undoubtedly result again in health issues.

Global Environment:

A recent international agreement was reached, to act to limit the increase global temperature to under 2 degrees Celsius. A study by a United Kingdom Energy Research sector estimated that between eighty and eighty eight percent (80-88%) of the existing worlds coal reserves need to remain unmined if this target is to be met. For Australia the estimate of ninety three percent (93%) needs to remain in the ground. Therefore, surely the seven percent (7%) that is it recommended could be mined, should come from existing mining operations. Such action would undoubtedly be a more cost effective solution ^{than} ~~that~~ expending monies on opening new areas,

especially with the possible harm that may and in some instances would result from mining activities as proposed in the Wallarah 2 Project.

In view of the recent action of the NSW State Government buying back the licence for a proposed coal mine under the Liverpool Plains area it is inconceivable that a licence be granted to the Wallarah 2 Project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M K Baxter'.

M K Baxter