



PCU066865

1708 Yarramalong Rd
YARRAMALONG, NSW 2259

Our reference: SLF.16.0803

Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Department of Planning
Received
5 SEP 2016
Scanning Room

Dear Sir,

**OBJECTION TO A PROPOSAL TO OPEN WALLARAH 2 COAL
PROJECT (APPLICATION NO. SSD - 4974 as Amended July 2016)**

References:

- A. Letter (SLF.13.0601) from R. J. Stacy dated 19 June 2013.
- B. Gazette No. 153 of LGA 1919, 1950 (Wyang Water Catchment protection).
- C. Wallarah 2 Coal Project, Amended Application dated July 2016.

Kores Australia has submitted an amended application for its proposal to construct a longwall coal mine beneath the water catchment valleys of Wyong and Dooralong.

We were advised by the Wyong Shire Council as part of the justification for the Mardi to Mangrove Mountain dam pipeline that these valleys (Dooralong and Yarramalong) accounted for between 50-85% of the water catchment for the entire Central Coast of NSW.

As I stated in my previous submission (Reference A.), I have worked in and around the mining industry for the past 20 years and fully support the industry for what it has done for Australia, and so in general support the Australian mining industry.

However, I continue to be surprised and 'dumbfounded' that a proposal, so close in to a major community region as the Central Coast, is being considered by government.

I note on at least four (4) separate occasions that NSW Government ministers have made commitments, and in writing, that the government "will ensure mining cannot occur ... in any water catchment area ..." This sounds like a commitment (or if not a contract) made to the public; the people who vote.

This commitment is also supported by Reference A, and it applies directly to the Wyong Catchment Area, including the Yarramalong Valley.

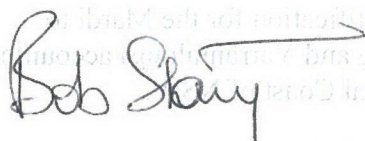
Based on details submitted within the latest Amendment (Reference C.), I would like to add the following concerns:

1. **Fresh Water Aquifer.** The Yarramalong Valley has a 30 metre deep fresh water aquifer that supplies the Central Coast with fresh potable water. The Wyong River is part of this water system. Under the aquifer are several layers of water that are brackish, to the extreme. The salinity numbers that were quoted were extremely high. So, if this brackish water rises to contaminate the surface aquifer, then what risk mitigation will the Central Coast Council and the NSW Government be putting in place to reduce the risk? If this did happen, and given Wyong River provides a significant proportion of the Central Coast water requirements, what contingencies will be put in place to supply 338,000 residents with an alternative source of fresh water? The existing pipeline from the Hunter would not be sufficient, and shipping additional fresh water in from Newcastle or Sydney would certainly be unsustainable in the long run.

2. **State Financials.** It is stated that the NSW Government will receive \$7M per year in royalties. However, there are also figures available suggesting that the NSW Government will be paying out approximately \$11.4 M in subsidies, infrastructure development and support, if the approval were to proceed. If these figures are true, then why would the government even consider proceeding with the mine application? Surely, sense has to prevail here!

3. **Farm Water.** Our farm has an approved irrigation license. If this mine were to proceed, they will be taking a significant proportion of the available water (Based on current flow rates, the river has only 170 ML per month available). Does this mean that we will have to give up part of our water license holding so that the mine can fulfil its water requirements? Or will it come from the Mangrove Mountain pipeline? Fresh water is critical to our farms viability. Reducing the available water has the potential to impact us directly through limiting both our pasture and cropping capability.

Kind regards,



Dr Robert Stacy PhD, MSc
Environment, Health and Safety Consultant (and farmer)

31 August 2016

ATTACHMENTS

1. A copy of my previous submission dated 19 June 2013

COPIES TO:

Member for Dobell, Premier's Department, and Central Coast Council.

1708 Yarramalong Rd
YARRAMALONG, NSW 2259

Our reference: SLF.13.0601

Director, Mining Projects
Development Assessment Systems & Approvals
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY, NSW 2001

Dear Sir,

OBJECTION TO A PROPOSAL TO OPEN WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT (APPLICATION NO. SSD - 4974)

References:

- A. Gazette No. 153 of LGA 1919, 1950 (Wyong Water Catchment protection).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our response to the proposal by Kores to mine in the area west of Wyong, including the Yarramalong Valley.

I have worked in and around the mining industry for the past 20 years and fully support the industry for what it has done for Australia.

However, I am rather surprised and 'dumbfounded' that a proposal, so close in to major community areas such as this, is being considered by government.

My interest is obviously in the Yarramalong Valley, which is a major part of the Wyong Shire's water catchment area. This can be seen by the extensive investment made to move water from Mardi in the lower sections of the Valley up to the Mangrove Dam. The fact that this development has progressed is an obvious demonstration that water is a scarce resource in the area. Based on the figures published to date, water will be a major limiting factor that government has to consider if this mine were to proceed, and based on current data, is clearly unsustainable. This is not just for the mine, but also the communities from Wyong Shire through to the coast. Who will have priority over the limited water? The residence or the mine?

I note also that the Premier made a commitment that his government "will ensure mining cannot occur ... in any water catchment area ..." This sounds like a commitment made to the public; the people who vote.

This commitment is also supported by Reference A, and it applies directly to the Wyong Catchment Area, including the Yarramalong Valley.

Therefore, based on the information provided to date, I have to object to the proposal. Therefore, in addition to this letter, I have attached a formal signed objection (Attachment 1) and supporting circular (Attachment 2).

Kind regards,



Dr Robert Stacy PhD, MSc
EHS Consultant (and farmer)

19 June 2013

ATTACHMENTS

1. My signed letter of *Objection to Proposed Wallarah 2 Coal Project* dated 19 June 2013.
2. Copy of Australian Coal Alliance circular regarding Wallarah 2 Coal Project.