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4th September 2016

The Hon. Robert Stokes
Planning Minister (New South Wales)
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Minister Stokes

Re: Wallarah 2 Coal Project SSD 4974 – Amended Development Application

Attached are the following:

1. Letter to Premier Mike Baird
2. My submission objecting to the above Development Application

As I have written in my letter to the Premier, I urge your department to reject this proposed coal mine in its entirety – both this amended D/A and the original D/A.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Norman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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The Hon Mike Baird
Premier of NSW
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Premier Baird

Re: Wallarah 2 Coal Project SSD 4974 – Amended Development Application

I have attached my submission, which has been lodged with the Planning Department, objecting to the above Amended Development Application.

This proposed coal mine should not be approved. There are too many risks associated with the project if it proceeds.

Two areas of major concern are:

1. The damage to the water catchment of the Central Coast – an area that has increasing numbers of people moving here from Sydney.
Subsidence from long wall coal mining has a very poor history near river systems – causing loss of both surface and ground water and unsuccessful attempts to rehabilitate the rivers.
2. The health risk to the public from air-borne coal dust particles – a burden that will inevitably fall back onto the public health care system.

I urge you to reject this proposed coal mine in its entirety. The water supply for the Central Coast region should be protected for both the current and future generations. There should be no mining in any water catchment.

Coal mining does not have a viable future – it is an out-dated fuel that contributes a significant amount of pollution, both in extraction and use, to the atmosphere and causes significant environmental damage.

If this project is given the approval to proceed, then the NSW State Government is sending a very loud and clear message to the people on the Central Coast of NSW that the revenue from coal mining is more important than they are.

1.8 metres and an incredible 2.6 metres near the Jilliby Conservation area. A principal finding of the PAC was there is 'inevitable uncertainty concerning subsidence predictions'.

The Mines Subsidence Board (MSB) has a poor record of paying affected property owners adequate compensation with the vast majority of claims being refused. The original application claims that property owners are protected by the MSB but this has been shown not to be the case.

PAC Report of 2013

The Planning Assessment Commission of 2013 concluded that "In considering the merits of the project as a whole the Commission has found that the benefits claimed for the project by the Proponent are not credible." The Commission was also very aware of water-related impacts.

Conclusion

The Central Coast water catchment supply in the Wyong valleys is at real risk of destruction due to subsidence. The Central Coast is a rapidly expanding area for both residential and industry – both of which need a reliable water supply – certainly not one that is compromised by degradation through coal mining.

The health risks associated with air-borne coal dust cannot be under-estimated both in terms of human health and financial burden on the government's health care system.

This amended development application, together with the original development application, should be rejected in its entirety. This amended application does nothing to address any of the impacts of the proposed coal mine – it only worsens the problems associated with coal dust.

The precautionary principle should be adopted. Therefore, this Amendment and the whole project should be rejected.

Yours faithfully

Sandra Norman