

LAKE MACQUARIE - CENTRAL COAST  
**Coal-ash Community Alliance** inc.

*Community action for a cleaner environment*

P.O. Box 1024 Toronto N.S.W. 2283 [coalashalliance@gmail.com](mailto:coalashalliance@gmail.com)

To...  
N.S.W. Planning Industry & Environment  
Major Projects  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

23-8-2020

**RE : OBJECTION TO THE MYUNA COLLIERY MODIFICATION  
CENTENNIAL MYUNA PTY. LIMITED APPLICATION No. MP10\_0080-Mod-2**

## **OBJECTION**

The first issue we the CCA would like to raise is the EEM slogan of "Creating Opportunities" and ask for whom, certainly not the local community? We at the Coal ash Community Alliance Inc. understand that the Eraring power station has for some time operated well below normal operations or full capacity and that Origin Energy is certainly looking at gas operations in the near future.

The CCA and the community understand that the quality of coal needed and not as yet being supplied is an issue for the power station, yet wonder why the community has to continually suffer for the needs of an industry that has a limited lifespan and has little care for the local community's welfare?

Does this mean that the close-by Vales Point power station may also need to truck cleaner coal to their facility after this proposal has set a precedent and then both will continue to generate more and more coal ash to be stored, as per the need for the current Eraring ash dam wall expansion project?

### **HISTORY:**

The Lake Macquarie/ Central Coast regions have long been environmentally violated and health impacted since the construction of the Wangi Power Station in 1958 and up until its closure in 1986. During that twenty eight year window, very few restrictions were placed upon its operations and what impacts it had were certainly either ignored or swept under the carpet by the authorities.

2.

Eraring power station's construction began in 1977 and commenced operations from 1982 till today and beyond. Therefore sixty two (62) years of continual operations of supplying, burning and disposing of by-products have taken their toll on both the environment and the region's health. This cannot be denied and this proposal is nothing more than part of the accumulating impact of potential carcinogenic operations by the power stations.

Being declared as a State Significant development holds very little credence to the facts and is seen by the community as just another tick the box exercise by both Planning N.S.W. and the E.P.A., thus not allowing the objections and facts to go further with legal action.

### **HEALTH ISSUES:**

Cancer cluster reports (Torrens University for the Cancer Institute) on the region have nine individual cancers being officially 6% above the N.S.W. average, yet our calculations have them close to 20% above the average.

Added air pollution from further truck movements no matter on private or public roads, between 20 truck movements per hour (4.4 Proposed truck transport) to 32 truck movements per hour (4.1 Overview) from 7am -6pm, six days a week, generating some 220-352 truck movements per day for an undisclosed period.

**The 2014 Environmental report on Diesel emissions and their management in N.S.W.** has Barry Buffier Chair and CEO N.S.W. Environment Protection Authority stating ...

***"Fine particle pollution is of greatest concern because it is associated with mortality and high health costs for the community. In addition, the World Health Organisation's International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified diesel exhaust as a human carcinogen. While concentrations are higher closer to sources, fine particles can disperse widely due to their very small size".***

The EPA report goes on to state that diesel exhaust consists mostly of fine particles, as well as containing ozone-forming nitrogen oxides and toxins. Fine particles are a priority for EPA action due to their adverse impacts on health, particularly for the elderly, children and those with existing health conditions.

Numerous scientific studies have linked particle exposure to a variety of lung and heart problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease; non-fatal heart attacks; irregular heartbeat; aggressive asthma; decreased lung function; and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing (US EPA 2009). Although air quality in N.S.W. is relatively good by international standards and has been steadily improving over time, it still imposes major costs on N.S.W. communities.

3.

In light of the mounting evidence of scientific and health warnings, this proposal has not put forward any concern for the community or their health. It is amazingly apparent that profit is of greater concern to Myuna Colliery than that of the concerns of the major stakeholders of the region or the potential pollution of the greater region of Lake Macquarie and the Central Coast.

It is reported that winds in the vicinity of the proposed project have calm days ranging between 10.7% (39 days) - 17.5% (63 days). Therefore some 302 days per annum would have greater wind velocity causing further air pollution from exhausts, particles falling off trucks and or uncovered trailers.

### **ROAD SAFETY and UPKEEP:**

It is apparent that the potential for 352 truck movements per day over an eleven hour period, six days per week, currently do not exist, especially on public roads within the proposed project curtilage. Yet **Transport for NSW** (Towards Zero) indicates there were 267 fatal crashes involving heavy vehicles in N.S.W. over the past five years (53 per year), plus 300 fatalities from Heavy truck crashes (60 per year).

One can only assume that having potentially one truck movement every minute over an operational life of Eraring power station. We can confidently predict that local residents driving on these roads and or pedestrians are under an immense threat from the sheer numbers of truck movements.

Part of the proposed route is seen to be on a public road and therefore possible ongoing maintenance may fall upon Lake Macquarie Council to manage the upkeep at ratepayer's expense.

Eraring power station had never planned in a manner to impose so much on daily life. Not only with added toxic air pollution or heavy metals in our lakes, yet also the added insult of major safety risks for anyone using the public roads identified in this proposal, be them drivers or pedestrians.



4.

The proposed installation of washing facilities, a weigh bridge including any further costs for infrastructure to the proponent is of no consequence to the community only that of Origin Energy Ltd.

The threat that the failure to provide coal of sufficient quality to Eraring Power Station could risk the ongoing employment of Myuna's workforce, is something that Origin Energy should have considered many years ago. This is being used as a leverage tool for the approval of this project against the health and safety issues of the regional community.

Origin Energy and authorities such as N.O.P.S.E.M.A. have commenced investigations into the use of gas as a long term strategy for both the longevity of the plant and its workforce. Any delayed foresight or unseen issues must fall totally as the responsibility of Origin Energy to solve those issues without further impact on the community.

Yours sincerely,

*Gary Blaschke*

Gary Blaschke OAM  
CCA Spokesperson

