

# SPEAKER NOTES: Dr Bob Stacy Ph.D., M.Sc.

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## My Background:

- I hold a Doctorate in Health, Safety and Environmental management and have, for the past 27 years, worked in the mining, heavy construction and the transport industries.
- I have worked for two international companies that have had to manage class actions following critical environmental events.
- With my wife, I own and operate a small farm in the Yarramalong Valley. This farm relies on the availability of fresh potable water.
- We have no political associations.

## My Issue:

- I have made two formal submissions to the Department concerning this project; one in 2013 and the other in 2016. I would add that no acknowledgement was received from the Department for either submission. In the most recent submission, I focused on three related issues:
  - **The Freshwater Supplies.** The risk associated with a potential breach and contamination of freshwater supplies to residents, businesses and agriculture.
  - **Government Commitments.** The possible breaches in Government commitments both as a Gazetted water protection zone and as made publically by Ministers on at least 4 known occasions.
  - **The Financials.** Questioning the funding structure and, ability or willingness of the company to pay for any future damages or contamination.
- In the depths of the Wallarah 2 application, there are several sections highlighting the risk of environmental contamination and its potential impact on the Central Coast's freshwater supplies.

## My Questions:

Should the Government, with your support, approve this application:

1. What guarantees will be imposed to ensure the protection of the freshwater aquifer for the life of the Wallarah 2 project and how will these be assured?
2. What independent funding stream will be established by the State to cover the costs of a failure in these guarantees and/or the realisation of a foreseeable environmental disaster? For example, the costs of:
  - The provision of potable water to the residents and water users in the Central Coast Region;
  - The restoration of a sustainable and reliable freshwater supply for the region ; and
  - The defence of a potential Class Action against the State and the individuals who approved the mine development.

Ma'am, having worked in the field as a professional for the last 31 years, I will say that such a situation can and in fact, has occurred - names that easily come to mind include Ok tedi (PNG), Hudson River (USA) and most recently, Samarco (Brazil).

Thank you.