



Submission to the PAC enquiry public Enquiry at Wyong Golf Club 6/3/17.

Wallarrah Mine 2 proposal

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The department states that the Yarramalong and Dooralong valley has been highly altered over the past century and the many streams are regularly subject to flooding, erosion and scouring.

The Department has stated in part that through a strict set of performance criteria, requirements for management plans and monitoring to mitigate potential impacts that on balance the department has concluded that the project benefits from the mine proposal outweigh its impacts.

Well that would be so if you were looking at the valleys as a resource for coal instead of the Coast's major and most important resource being water.

And that was the attitude before the droughts in the early 2000's when the NSW Govt awarded the exploration areas in 1995 before the very long deep drought occurred, when the coast learnt the lesson that they were dependent upon the main resource from our valleys our water. The coast has also grown immensely since 1995 and a rethink of priorities is required. A proposal to explore for coal in 1995 is very different to the larger urban area and its dependent water catchment of 2017.

Yes there has been noted degradation in the past but this does not justify further degradation in the future.

How can it, it should be a canary in the mine things have to get much better. This is the water supply catchment for 333119 people and growing estimates to be 409000 by 2036.

This is similar in size to the ACT and much larger in population than the whole Northern Territory yet it only has this relatively small water catchment. A water catchment that has only recently been upgraded with \$114,000,000 (80.3 million for the pipeline) being spent to supply a permanent and reliable water supply for the whole Central Coast. Transferring excess Wyong River water to Mardi Dam and then pumping it to the large Mangrove Creek Dam.

Mangrove Creek dam is a large storage dam basically with water pumped from the Mardi dam with a limited catchment based on the Mangrove Creek. Mardi Dam is both a Wyong River and a Ourimbah River sourced dam.

If there is even the smallest risk over the life of the mining lease of having a degrading impact on the our Wyong River and its **catchment then it should not go ahead** any risk at all is too high in my opinion in this circumstance.

These waterways are the Central Coast's lifeblood the Coasts relied upon water supply!

Ground water in the valley is very important and is the only local based back up water system the coast has. It is already harvested for bottlers and agriculture. It is also the only resource we have if rain is not abundant especially in the valleys themselves. In the 7 years of drought which ended in 2008 on the Central Coast water supply nearly dried up, it bottomed out at 9 percent.

In the Departments Report it says that if there is damage or loss to the bores the miner is required to repair or replace that water, I ask how is this to be done it is not in the report?

Although water supply links have been improved we cannot afford to take any risk regardless of how little to the number one resource of the Central Coast and that is Water NOT Coal.

In the preliminary assessment the Department acknowledges on page 28 that Jilliby Creek is an important supplier of water to agriculture and the catchment but says it will only balance the environmental impacts placed on it by the 35 long wall panels planned below..35 Long wall panels below!

If there is any risk at all it is too high a price to pay for a coal extraction industry that is not essential to the Central Coast.

No Water, equals no growth, no future.