In regard to the Wallarah 2 Coal Project

Wyong Commission Hearing

I have had the pleasure of being associated with mining on the Central Coast for the last 60 years and my father and grandfather before me also. My business has been running for 58 years and it is one of the major contributing industries.

I have witnessed the benefits that it had created for so many people in the Central Coast area. Along with the assistance that has been given to community projects, local schools, apprenticeships and environmental projects some of which I have been involved with directly. These projects have been and are so important to the local community while at the same time providing future work directly and indirectly for so many people and businesses on the Central Coast.

The project that we are now speaking about I have been involved with in one way or another since it began. So, I have seen the work and consideration given of how it operates. It operates to assist the district and the people living in district while having no environmental effect on the area.

The other important issue is the amount of businesses that will benefit from a project like this and the employment for the public in general. In most of it, it is a reasonable high income earnings bracket for the employees of the industry which the Central Coast needs. Most people chasing this type of income have to travel to Sydney. This is quite a drain on families with travelling time and cost of travelling. So again, it is a huge benefit to the Central Coast community.

As I see it, it is having no environmental effect on the area as some people would like to think. How the mines are operating currently has no disadvantages or destruction to the area. As for myself, it is not going to be a huge benefit due to my age, I would like to think that my children and grandchildren have opportunities to work in this industry the same as my grandfather, father and myself have.

I feel that it can only be a benefit to the area.

Barrie Toepfer

The Toepfer Group