Submission in support of Wallarah 2 Coal Project

Peter Allonby 12 April 2017

After sitting through the PAC Hearing and see the Australian Coal Alliance Facebook posts encouraging residents to make written submissions including photographs I feel I have to make a submission.

Firstly I will point out the significance of mining to the Central Coast. This is clearly demonstrated in Australian Government February 2017 numbers. Mining is a significantly greater employer than Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing for example. In no way am I suggesting that mining should get preferential treatment over Agriculture. I see no reason why Wallarah 2 Coal Project and Agriculture cannot co-exist.

Source: http://lmip.gov.au
At a Central Coast Economic Breakfast on Friday 7th April 2017 a number of presenters talked of the employment challenge facing the Central Coast. Two points hit me:

1. Central Coast youth generally finish schooling earlier than most of Australia and then struggle in the job market through lack of post school education. The following table shows a depressing story:

![Table Image]


Wyong Coal, despite not having a development approval is already, assisting with apprenticeships. 300 long term mine jobs will undoubtedly create significant opportunities on the Coast. Statements have been made about that employment not coming to the Coast. I re-emphasise a statement made in a Wyong Coal community flyer:

**MYTH 3**

The promise for local jobs is overstated. Miners will have to be qualified which means they will come from out of the area. The CFMEU (Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union) will insist on it.


**FACT**

All forms of “closed shops” became illegal under the Federal Workplace Relations Act 1996.

ABS statistics from August 2009 showed that current union representation in mines was only 20.4%, and 22.0% of mineworkers were previously union members. This means that 58% of mineworkers have never been union members.

Ulan West underground mine near Mudgee commenced in 2012. Today, 90 per cent of the workforce are “clean skins” (non-experienced workers) at what is one of Australia’s most productive and safest mines. Ulan West operates 24/7 with 900 employees and has an impressive safety record that is still improving today. Ulan West believe this is due to the “productive” nature of their workers, as “productive people are thinking about everything” as they work, and naturally “safety is one of those things.”

Wallarah 2 remains committed to a target of 70% local employment, including 10% indigenous employment.

2. The economic value that comes from having residential development and places of work in close proximity to remove reliance on public transport as is the case for many on the Coast. Examples of Geelong, Western Sydney and Sunshine Coast where residential growth and employment growth are both occurring in the same locality. This suggests that Darkinjung residential plans and the development of Wallarah 2 may well be complimentary developments.
With regard to the stories of long-term harm and health detriment in mining areas I present the following photographs taken on Saturday 8th April 2017 demonstrating local areas that are proud of their coal mining heritage and have gone from strength to strength post mining despite those mines not being subject to the rigorous consent conditions and environmental requirements that now prevail. I do not make any comment or attempt to compare with Wallarah 2. The merits and impacts of Wallarah 2 must be clinically assessed on facts not emotions:

**Dudley**

![Dudley Mural](image1.jpg)

**Redhead**

John Darling shaft:

![Redhead Shaft](image2.jpg)
Residential development at shaft site:
Mine buildings getting community use:

Rural lands continuing:
And co-habiting with industry:

**Fernleigh Track**

Old coal railway line now used for recreation:
Catherine Hill Bay

Historic Catherine Hill Bay:

Vegetation and creeks after 130 years of coal mining:
Beach after 130 years of coal mining. Ship loader in background and coal washery site on hill:
WATER NOT COAL

· April 7 at 3:20pm ·

To counter the Kores Coal Mine supporters you can submit to the pac@pac.nsw.gov.au by 5 pm next Wednesday 12 April, 2017. The Commissioner asked for relevant information from people it impacted on. So I would like to ask you take a photo of your environment, water or lifestyle and send a short letter as to why you don't want the Korean Governments Wallarah 2 mine