

SUBMISSION ON WALLARAH 2 BY NEIL BEVEGE.

My objection to this project relates to security of the Central Coast water supply.

In general terms the approval conditions say that the mine must have only a minimal impact on the Central Coast water supply. It goes on to say that the proponent must remedy any situation where a resident's water supply is impacted. What this means is that if the mine causes a greater than allowable impact on the water supply, the proponent must make up the difference. This would apply to every property owner in the Central Coast LGA.

Where I object to the current approval conditions is that there is no requirement for the proponent to establish any form of financial bond or insurance policy to cover the cost of purchase of water supply from outside the central coast, to make up the shortfall.

In a worst case scenario, where the mine caused a collapse and fracturing through to the surface, such that the water in the catchment disappeared underground, then water would have to be purchased from Hunter Water, on an emergency basis. On a long term basis, a new water supply would have to be found, either through a dam or a substantial desalination plant.

When Hunter Water was contemplating constructing the Tillegera Dam, the estimated cost was around \$450 million.

As a facility of a similar capacity would be required to replace lost Central Coast water supply, then it is reasonable that the proponent be required, as a condition of approval, to put in place a financial bond of this amount, indexed annually by changes in construction costs for a desalination plant or dam, in both instances including all reticulation and water treatment capacity to deliver potable water to the Central Coast LGA.