Mr Chairman, Commissioners.

Having been born in Gosford and involved as a Councillor, Mayor and Local MP spanning 40 odd years, I firmly believe a decision to approve the Wallarah 2 Coal mine extension will have a serious impact on our water catchment area, agricultural production, pristine environment and our quality of life.

Various submissions before you, such as Wyong and Gosford Council, the CEN and Australian Coal Alliance will be explained by eminent qualified personnel, in more detail, why this application should be refused.

I fully support their arguments and commend them to the panel.

I also table previous minister Tony Kelly’s letter dated 21st March 2011 detailing the previous Governments reasons for refusal. I quote one reason highlighted in Mr Kelly’s letter.

Nothing has changed except a new application, a change of Government and an ICAC enquiry.

The Central Coast system has 3 dams, 3 weirs, 3 water treatment plants, over 50 reservoirs and more than 2000 kilometres of pipeline.

As China and India move from construction to consumption quality food becomes more important. It is reported the Australian Agricultural Sector has the capacity directly and indirectly to employ 1.5 million plus people – far greater than the resource sector.

Although the Central Coast is only a minor food producing area it is an essential quality productive region.

Rural land is precious we can’t manufacture any more of it.

Total value in 2010/11 of our agricultural output was $157 million and growing.

There are 65 chicken farms, cattle and beef producers, citrus, avocados, vegetables, cut flowers and fresh spring water bottling facilities.
Water Mr Chairman is the lifeblood to agricultural farming.

(Somersby Boutique, Lentini Major)

The coalmine extension operating 24 hours a day over 25 years extracting 5 million tonnes of coal each year could put our clean drinking water at risk.

Underground long wall mining is generally 150 – 350 metres deep in NSW and Queensland. However I believe greater depths apply in the Hunter Valley.

The applicant agrees subsidence can happen – maybe 2 metres or even greater. This can interfere with water flows, and aquifers, with possible toxic chemicals entering our catchment waters causing serious impacts on agricultural production, domestic water use and fresh water drinking consumption.

Martin Krogh of Environmental Data Analysis PTY LTD argues strongly in a submission to NSW Planning that there is sufficient overseas evidence of the impact of long wall mining.

Contamination likely - a possibility (from overseas experience) - what price the health of our community.

To me it is top of the list, not coal.

With a population of 300,000 plus and growing, our present catchment area and dams, are our only supply. There is no other sustainable avenue.

Finally from my 40 odd years in public life, my Australia wide travel, both by land and air as well as extensive overseas trips, I firmly believe mining should be prohibited in water catchment areas and prime agricultural land.

Mines here today,

Gone tomorrow,

As human beings coal does not sustain us.

Water and Food do Without them ,

We don’t exist.
Premier Barry O'Farrell  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney 2000

Dear Barry,

At the Gosford Branch meeting on Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} August the following resolution was carried unanimously.

"Gosford Branch strongly supports the Premiers pre election TV statement that there would be \textbf{no approval} for the extension of the Korean owned Wallarah 2 underground coal mine into the Dooralong/Yarramalong Valley."

Yours sincerely

Malcolm H Brooks  
President

Copy to: Brad Hazzard  
Chris Hartcher  
Chris Holstein  
Chris Spence  
Darren Webber
Mr Michael Campbell OAM
56 Little Jilliby Road
JILLIBY NSW 2259

Dear Mr Campbell,

I refer to your letter to Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of New South Wales, concerning the Wallarah 2 Coal Project. The Governor forwarded your letter to me for my direct reply.

As I expect you are aware, I refused the application for the Wallarah 2 Coal Project on 3 March 2011, following close consideration of all matters raised during the assessment process.

The key grounds on which I refused the proposal were:

- uncertainty around the subsidence predictions for the project particularly in the western portion of the site under Jilliby Conservation Area and the Wyong State Forest;
- the project does not adequately address potential surface water quality impacts, resulting in uncertainty around the ability of the project to meet acceptable water quality outcomes;
- uncertainty around the ecological impacts of the project, particularly in the western portion of the site, as a result of a lack of ecological survey effort combined with uncertainty as to subsidence predictions in the area;
- uncertainty around the heritage impacts of the project, particularly in the western portion of the site, as a result of a lack of heritage survey effort combined with uncertainty as to subsidence predictions in this area; and
- in light of the above, the project is not considered consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development, including the precautionary principle, and as a consequence is not considered to be in the public interest.

The reasons for refusal are set out in full in the Project Refusal and Director-General’s Assessment Report, which can be accessed via the Department of Planning’s website at www.planning.nsw.gov.au

The Government has fulfilled its public commitments that the Wallarah 2 Coal Project would be subject to a very careful and rigorous merit assessment process. The matters you raised were thoroughly considered during the assessment of the project.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Kelly MLC
Minister for Planning

the project does not adequately address potential surface water quality impacts, resulting in uncertainty around the ability of the project to meet acceptable water quality outcomes;