The Commissioners for Wallarah 2 Coal Project
N.S.W. Planning Assessment Commission
G.P.O. Box 3415.
Sydney N.S.W. 2001

Commissioners,

When you are considering the above named project please keep in mind that water will become the most precious commodity in Australia. Pristine drinking water will be most valuable of all.

The Central Coast water supply is stretched to its limit and even with the increased pumped water storage capacity it will have problems meeting projected population increases over the next 25-30 years.

To endanger this supply with a mine under it is reckless in the extreme. No matter what precautions offered by the mine proponents there is no way of knowing if they will succeed. This was proven by the surface collapse at Mount Sugarloaf recently. During investigations of that collapse an E.P.A. spokesman said there is no way of accurately predicting how much subsidence will occur over depleted long wall mines. The mountain now has large no go walking areas for an indeterminate period which could last longer than the lifetimes of our current younger generations and means the loss of tourist business in the area. The mine has contritely stated that they will no longer continue mining under the mountain but the cynical might say that the lease area had been fully depleted. It has been rumoured that the government will extract an offset of some biodiverse lands. It does not replace the mountain and is not a punishment to fit the crime.

The Sydney water losses over the southern mines and pollution of the water feeding the smaller dams is still causing problems with and more mineral pollution has recently been reported.

The Wallarah 2 mine is not a suitable place to experiment with limiting subsidence effects and saying sorry after the water supply is lost. There is no way of enforcing punishment on overseas companies who have the ability to walk away without fear of retribution.

Mining must not proceed under the Central Coast Catchment.

Yours Faithfully,

Keith Sedgmen