Objection to Amended Application

Wallarah 2 – Long-wall coal mine proposal

Further comments to my previous objection dated August 2016

This amended application should not be approved as it is not in the public interest for the people of the Central Coast, nor NSW, nor even Australia. Climate Change is real and its main culprits are known of which burning of thermal coal is one of them. There is no realistic way that the EPA will be able to stringently enforce compliance even on the simplest conditions to mitigate coal toxicity from leaching into the atmosphere.

Then there are the detrimental flow-on health effects from the lack of compliance control manifesting as respiratory illnesses and cancers, even stress causing heart attacks and suicides. It puts a huge strain on people’s capacity to remain in the workplace, thus over-burdening the medical profession. Economically, in the long term, that equates to less revenue from tax and more public spending on health.

Aside from that, other flow-on effects would be a decrease in property values. Would you want to buy into property next to a coal transportation line? Would you want to breathe coal dust 24/7? Of course, this would affect the construction industry as the demand to build would decrease. The construction industry is usually a good barometer of economic stability.

Then there is the discrepancy of the mine’s yield pillars in this new amendment. Without adequately addressing the issue of geo-technical stabilisation, the region will suffer land subsidence of unknown proportion that is guaranteed to jeopardise the Central Coast’s water catchment aquifers. As the United Nations has stipulated, clean water is a basic human right. Without water, there is no life. The Central Coast will lose its crucial life-source.

Approval of the application will not be a quick-fix for economic prosperity but will cause undue financial burden on everyone who will have to pay the price both economically and environmentally for many, many decades to compensate the detrimental effects. This amended application should be refused because it is not in the public interest.
Dear Sir/Madam,

Please see the attached letter notifying the forthcoming Planning Assessment Commission Hearing on the above proposal for your information.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on the Commission's process on (02) 9383 2100.

Kind Regards

Philippa Vale | Project Support Officer Secretariat

NSW Planning Assessment Commission

Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2000