Philippa Vale

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 11 April 2017 11:41 AM
To: PAC Enquiries Mailbox
Subject: Fw: I Oppose the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine Project
Attachments: Backyard.jpg

Subject: I Oppose the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine Project

To the Commissioners
I wish to lodge my formal objection to this project for a number of reasons :-
Firstly the damage that this project will inflict to the water catchment for the entire region, I believe the facts from independent research that has been conducted plus historical data from other projects globally , prove categorically that this will have a devastating effect on the water catchment in our area,
Secondly the Air quality will be compromised if this project goes ahead with specific regard to the suburbs of Blue Haven and Wyee, it is well documented that the size of the coal dust particles are between 0.025 and 0.05 microns, these have the potential to cause respiratory diseases that are currently not an issue in healthy children and adults, this size of coal dust particle of proven carcinogenic material will be spewing out from the coal loader site approx. 260m to 350m from the boundary of a densely populated suburb (blue haven) 24 hours a day, this is a suburb with a 2 x day-care facilities and a kindy , one of the day-care facilities would be approx. 3-400 m away from the coal loader facility, how in the name of common sense can this be deemed acceptable to even contemplate this project.
Thirdly myself and my partner moved out of Sydney and into blue haven to start a family approximately 5 ½ years ago, and we have integrated ourselves not only into the blue haven community but the central coast community, we source all of our shopping needs locally , all of our trade repairs locally, all of our hardware needs, our office requirements (I work from home) and our children's schooling, (I have a 5 year old who has just started at a local Anglican school, with my 3 year old to follow in 2 years' time) every facet of our lives revolves around the local community, my partner has a very good circle of friends gained from her involvement with the mothers groups she attended when we first arrived, I have joined our local rugby union club and my son also has joined mini rugby, every facet of our lives now revolves around the local community. Considering that expected growth of the central coast is approx. 75,000 per year, this area will be growing exponentially , putting more strain on the water catchment we have, currently this should be able to cope with the growth in the area, but the area with this amount of growth in people will require trades and services and therefore will offer more and more opportunities for young people coming into the job market , this will afford them more opportunity for local jobs, as it is as far as I can see there are not enough trades and services at present to deal with the amount of work the current growth of the central coast has available. The number of jobs that this mine will create I believe will be dwarfed by the number of jobs and opportunity that the central coast will offer within the next 10 years as it grows exponentially.
The job creation and expansion in Gosford, government departments relocating to Gosford , Qantas call centre for its frequent flyer program, relocating, new developments in and around Gosford CBD to create more job opportunities, we do not need the few opportunities that this devastating project will afford the young people of the coast in the future.
Fourthly when we moved it was also an affordability issue that Sydney is experiencing , land values have skyrocketed , we like many others wanted to be able to afford a home, and have within our grasp the ability to pay off a mortgage and not pass a mortgage debt onto our children when we pass away.
This project will adversely affect the land values of where we live but also the surrounding areas, that all have experienced steady growth over the last 5 years,
We do not want to be forced into a position where we have to move away from our house if this project goes ahead, only to find that we cannot sell as the land value has dropped so dramatically in our area that we cannot afford to move out of the area and are stuck living in a poisoned suburb through no fault of our own , just the greed of a government so inherently corrupt that this project is deemed acceptable and is being pushed through in the face of overwhelming evidence that this is a hugely flawed project at every level, that the treatment of the entire central coast community is tantamount to contempt.

Moreover the fact that the only reason that this project is being pushed so hard , is the fact that this mine if given approval will go onto the world market for sale immediately, NOTHING has been mentioned about this little snippet of info, as a business man myself for the last 11 years, it is as plain as the nose on my face that this project is being prepared for sale. Both the South Korean and Japanese governments (who make up KORES, the owner of the mining licence) are nationally , officially moving away from thermal coal usage and towards both a solar and nuclear power solution for their countries into the future, next is the fact that KORES as an organisation are 36 TRILLION dollars in debt and therefore do not even have the capital to fund the workings of this project, to me it stands out like the proverbial dogs N*** that this project is being prepared for sale on the open market, so in turn that means all the lip service and the off few hundred thousand dollars placed into the central coast region over the last 20 years is a mere drop in the ocean in comparison to taking a fully approved coal mine to market, that then begs the question what are the new owners going to bring to the table , WE DON'T KNOW.

I would like to touch on the environmental issues that this project will bring to the region, not for long as I believe there are many other people better qualified to bring the real dangers to the environment with fact and figures, no my objections comes from a purely personal reasoning, Please see attached pic of our backyard,

We have found our little piece of paradise, we use the creek on a regular basis as well as our neighbours, our entire family swim in the creek, my Kids ability to swim un aided has been accelerated by swimming in the creek nearly every day during summer, our friends and neighbours use the creek, it is a breeding ground for a myriad of different Australian native species of fish I watch them swim past my jetty every day , we have water dragons who sit on our sea wall to bask in the sun, the ducks who come and chatter looking for our kids to feed them bread of the jetty, I kayak and paddle board straight off my backyard, this is as idyllic position as you can get, and again I come back to common sense,

We are at risk of poisoning this environment both damaging the bush and the spring fed creek , for the flora and fauna, but creating a more problematic bush fire risk if the local surrounding area of bush is covered in coal dust, as I reiterate COMMON SENSE PLEASE.

As I conclude my objection I do hope for myself and my families sake, and for all the other families that live and love this area of the coast, that you are the gatekeepers

Of sanity, that you can see that the Cons of this project far outweigh the Pro's and i fervently hope that you are as independent as you purport to be, please do not give us all case to even consider that you would be as tarnished with corruption as this entire project at both federal and state level has become over the course of the last 2 decades.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Ian Hayes
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