PAC – Re. Wallarah 2.
PAC@PAC.NSW.GOV.AU

Dear Panel, (my own views)

Thank you for your professional operation of the hearing at Wyong on the 5th April, you certainly instilled confidence with me that the right thing will be done this time.

As I mentioned in the break following your arrest, the community has been through this and other processes relating to W2 for about 10 years, but prior to that, there was the Sydney Gas (fraud), where it appears the company was attempting to increase its stock value and sell shares etc based on the expected exploration of gas in the valleys. This was also at huge personal expense to many in the community, including myself.

I don’t intend to address any technical issues here, as they are well known and documented. However, based on those issues, Water, Dust, Subsidence, wildlife, it is fair to say that the community has a very strong argument, and is suffering stress and anxiety as a result of the constant requirement to respond and do work for which we are not trained to do, to combat people who use their professional knowledge and specific “community consultation” training in an attempt to wear us out and eventually defeat us. This comes at a huge health, mental health and financial cost.

Following a massive campaign of fundraising, hard work, community meetings, technical self education, research, consulting with engineers and specialists and meeting with every relevant State and Federal Government Minister, the Australian Coal Alliance, of which I am a member, had generated enough influence upon Barry O’Farrell that, off his own bat, he stood on a table in Woodbury Park Wyong and said “The next Liberal National Government, will ensure that mining can’t occur in this water catchment or in any water catchment area...

NO IFS, NO BUTS, A GUARANTEE I”
(The opposing member David Harris congratulated O’Farrell and said he wished his Party would give that guarantee, as Ian McDonald was the Nat.Res.Minister at the time.)

 THIS IS STILL THE SAME GOVERNMENT WHO MADE THAT GUARANTEE TO OUR NSW COMMUNITY.
This guarantee is both on video and documented in writing. The Government has no honour as it has shown, and cannot be trusted to carry out the process or management and rectification of this project in such an important ecological area, with a growing population. The risk is too high, the process is broken, and this is only a $400.00 company.

So, the community has to suffer the pain and anxiety of false hope and on top of the broken promises by the Government, we have the proponent applying yet again, but :
- with no current exploration license,
- no significant changes to the application or underlying data
- and the Government is once again entertaining their proposal, again at great cost to us.
What the proponent has actively done, as you saw, is to throw some money about to people who will get up and prostitute themselves with no technical argument, no consideration for their community and environment.

The Newcastle Progress Association rep, Robert Monteath for example, spoke about the need for electricity generation and Tesla cars, nothing to do with W2. The NSW Justices Assoc. Mr Bruce Gibbs spoke as the Vice Pres. Of the Justices Assoc, however, the President of the association confirmed the following to me via email.

“Dear Sir
I am in receipt of your email and you are correct in your assumption that we are a non political organisation. I was unaware of my association having any involvement in this event. I have asked for an explanation from Bruce Gibbs and will respond to you once this is to hand.”

The underlying concern with people being coerced or bribed to speak at these important events, is that they have no apparent authority from their organisation, or in the case of an association, the people they represent. They have no concern for the community, but they do it out of greed, and the PAC has no way of knowing if they are genuine.

These speakers effect people who own land subject to subsidence of up to 2.5Mtr who have their lives on hold waiting for this proposal to die the horrible death it deserves. These innocent people cannot sell, cannot build and only have a personal life span of 80 years, 10 of which has already been taken up by this uncertainty.

The same can be said for the people of Bluehaven and the surrounding areas where the effect of the proponent and their prostitutes is broad reaching with regard to dust and health issues.

Speakers against the proposal, including Sean Gordon (DLC), Tanya and Bileen (CCC), Allan Hayes (ACA), Rod Campbell (Aust.Inst.), and others, presented with well substantiated and relevant arguments, and besides those directly affected, DLC and CCC, none of the others were remunerated or had anything other than a genuine interest in any way as far as I am aware.

I am absolutely against this proposal, but more than that, I want to see the process fixed so that the community can get on with their lives, and stop playing politics. That’s not what we are here to do. This Liberal National Government already gave a rock solid commitment that there would be no mining in the Wyong Catchment, No Ifs, No Buts, A Guarantee.

Thank you for your time.
Kind regards,

Warren Simmons (Aust. Coal Alliance)

10 April 2017.