

NSW Planning and Assessment Commission Presentation

Public Hearing: Wallarah 2 Coal Project

Date: Friday 3rd November 2017

Location: Wyong Golf Club, Wyong NSW

Presenter: Barbara Gorman

I wish to thank the Commissioners for the opportunity to present my concerns regarding the potential development of a coal mine on the Central Coast.

My background as a Nursing Unit Manager, with experience in caring for patients with respiratory and cardiopulmonary disease, as a result of exposure to air pollutants, makes me ask the question why are we considering this project?

The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere rose to a record level last year. The increase was driven by human activities such as burning fossil fuels, according to the World Meteorological Organisation.

Environmental health provides the basis of public health.

The community of the Central Coast expect to raise their families in a healthy environment.

Not only does coal mining present the immediate risks associated with dust and contaminated water but also the longer term risks associated with climate change.

A new health and climate report in the Lancet has found the number of vulnerable people exposed to heatwaves has increased by 125 million in the past 15 years, with infants and the elderly especially at risk.

I would like to share with you my own personal experience with family members who lost their lives working in the coal mines of the Hunter Valley.

My Grandfather died of Black lung disease and my uncle drowned in a tailing dam.

When we know better, we should do better.

Renewable energy is the way forward for the Central Coast, not coal mining.