

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Submission on the WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT (SSD 4974)
Date: Thursday, 26 October 2017 1:14:30 PM

Dear NSW Planning and Assessment Commission Members,

I am writing to OBJECT to the WALLARAH COAL PROJECT (SSD 4974).

I object for many reasons as follows:

- (1) As an Australian and world citizen I desire to see an end to coal mining in Australia as soon as possible, to limit the damage that humans have already had on our climate system. Coal mining is clearly unsustainable in the long term and we need to cease coal mining now, rather than think we are to cease in a few years' time or a few years' time after that. Like a smoker. Everyone knows coal mining causes numerous social and environmental (and also economic) problems. In my opinion, the NSW department of planning and environment should not continue to approve coal mining now or into the future, unless there is such a demonstrable **NEED** (by need I do not mean market demand, I also do not mean benefit to a few in terms of jobs or prospects) for the coal such that some activity that actually provides a social/environmental/economic good requires coal at the moment. I cannot see that **NEED** is demonstrated in this project. I understand that the project would extract thermal coal. This thermal coal is burned to release energy which is then harnessed in power-stations or the like. Technology already exists which can replace coal-fired power stations. Even companies like AGL are wanting to shut down their coal-fired power stations and move towards harnessing renewable energy forms. Where is the demonstrable **NEED** for this project to proceed with all the inherent costs to society, the environment and to our economic system? It would be madness to approve it. Doesn't the NSW department of planning and environment had a civic and legal duty to make decisions in line with ecologically sustainable development principles? How is continuing to mine coal in this instance sustainable?
- (2) I object to the proposal also for many other more specific reasons: A. The associated loss of precious water from local aquifers; B. Emission of coal fine particulates into the atmosphere and the resulting negative health /mortality effects on people nearby – I do not want that here in Wollongong or up north in Central Coast/Hunter; C. Damage to the environment (e.g. caused by brine disposal, caused by underground workings causing subsidence and surface impacts); D. Continuance of our governance/economic systems to subsidize fossil fuels and lack of incorporation of externalities into costings; E. The longer Australia continues to think we have to cash in our minerals instead of exploiting our sun and wind and wastes, then the further behind we will ever become. We need to act now and ensure our economic system is full of diversity and based on truly sustainable energy sources.
- (3) I also object to the proposal because I know from my experiences of life so far, that NSW government premiers and departments fail to protect communities, fail to enforce approval conditions, fail to adequately punish offenders, etc. Once damage is done it is too late. Damage will be done to the environment and to people's health. Allowing this to go forward is agreeing to that – for no good reason. The only chance of community members is if we can get PAC members to protect us upfront. That is why I am writing to you.

Yours sincerely,

Deidre Stuart

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