

Wallarah 2 coal facility: issues for the Regional Planning Committee...

- Good morning... Name: Gary Blaschke & I live in Lake Munmorah.
- I represent : **Northern Lakes Disability Tourism Precinct Committee Inc.** and other regional disability organisations.
- I previously submitted a **10 page report** on 12 August 2016, opposing this proposal on many grounds and I can only hope that this Planning Panel have taken the time to read & comprehend it.
- May I start by stating something very relevant to this hearing...

Australia has a new bank (Bank Australia), who's motto is "Putting people before Profit",

I can only hope that this panel has adopted that same motto.

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- Over the **past five years** our community groups have been advocating and auditing our region for safe and healthy destinations for the disabled or those with mobility or aging issues, especially in the north of the Central Coast for disability tourism.
 - Our first precinct is primarily based around Camp Breakaway at San Remo with proposals for disability fishing platforms at San Remo, Chain Valley Bay & Gwandalan.
 - The community has constructed a major disability access ramp at Lakes Beach at Budgewoi.
 - Had **the Roads and Maritime Service** build new disability toilets on the M1 Freeway @ the Hawkesbury Bridge rest area.
 - Audited both Caltex Service Centres on the M1.

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- Audited many of the clubs, shopping centres & individual shops within the region.
- We are currently petitioning the N.S.W. Government on access to Wyee Station because of the 82 steps needing to be accessed at this so called transport hub, as described by the N.S.W. Government.

Now that you have some idea of what this proposal potentially has on this region from my previous submission and others,

I'd like to update the Planning Panel & Community on what has transpired over the past twelve months since my previous submission...

- The Central Coast (especially the northern region) has a **N.S.W. Planning & Environment document** called the "**Central Coast Regional Plan 2036**", introduced by the N.S.W. Government without too much fan fair & certainly having very few within our community knowing of it or having any input into it.
In fact there were only 211 individual submissions that represent 0.06% of the Central Coast population.
- I met with director **Monica Gibson** & Team Leader **Gary Hopkins** (N.S.W. Planning, Gosford office) on 1st December 2016 re the Plan and was told this 2036 plan was "**just a Blueprint**" and that is why there is no substance to it.
No identification of proposed 40,500 housing sites or the \$180 million mineral extraction land.

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- I have met with the **Coordinator General** appointed by the N.S.W. Government (**Lea Shearer**) on 3rd July 2017 regarding this Plan & I have been told unequivocally that this document will be implemented whether I or the community like it or not.

This resulted in Ms Shearer walking out on our meeting.

If this is part of the New Review of Planning Regulations which calls for enhanced community participation or increases in probity & transparency, then the Government has just failed.

- This same Regional Plan **omits the Wallarah 2 coal proposal.**
- **It also does not take into consideration or identify the following...**
 1. The many decades of ongoing mine subsidence throughout the region, with residents needing permission to purchase properties by the Mine Subsidence Board.
 2. **Sunset International ltd.** Trading as Delta Electricity...

Its 455 Olympic swimming pools or equivalent to 1 ½ times in area of Centennial Park in Sydney of **Fly Ash storage**, with no plans for remediation, other than dirt capping to the depth of 650 mm.

Built in the 60's, the dams are totally unlined & now potentially causing environmental damage & or human health issues.

We now have emerging scientific evidence of the leaching of those unlined dams causing salinity issues and acid sulphate bogs outside of the dams, on private property.

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3. We have the Environmental Justice damning **"Toxic & Terminal"** Air Pollution Report on power stations nearby.

4. The **Torrens University four year Cancer Cluster Report** on the Central Coast which sees the Northern Region having cancer findings, 20% above the States average.
(Newspaper front page, Express Advocate Thursday July 20 2017)..

Dr. Peter Lewis, Director, Central Coast Public Health Unit is currently analysing these findings and will report back to me within the next four weeks.

We have 9 types of cancer identifying the region's suburbs most affected...

Those being **Wyong, Wyong East, Wyong North East**, (where we stand today) **Charmhaven and Gorokan**, yet Wyoming, Warnervale, Bateau Bay, The Entrance, Tumby Umbi, Umina and Woy Woy are also suffering from a form or forms of cancer above the state average/

5. We have the EPA's emerging findings of **PFAS Contamination** at Lake Munmorah and Colongra Bay **(the same as the Williamtown issue)**.
Currently there are Independent studies being carried out with findings not being available till early 2018.

6. Proposed further mining under Lake Macquarie with also, a proposal of an extra 4 train movements per day on top of Wallarah 2's proposed train movements. **(Therefore doubling the number of uncovered coal trains loading and transporting coal each day)**.

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'It is also easy to see that this region has been environmentally & possibly human health pillaged and vandalised for decades by every major extraction process or development conceivable.

It is also easy for this Regional Panel to only look at what is proposed within the developments curledge or boundary or use the excuse of any terms of reference.

Yet, it is a **Regional Planning Panels duty** to look further into the entire region as their name suggests **(Regional Panel)** and **understand and comprehend the externalities of any individual proposal**, plus, what is currently proposed or transpiring or has transpired over the past decades.

No one development can be viewed in total isolation, as that will be seen by the community as bad planning & will ultimately reflect in the next state elections.

The Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 also earmarks the Northern region for ...

- **\$180 Million PA. of Mining Extractions** such as coal, gas, petroleum, sand, gravel, clay, sandstone & other minerals, ***yet does not identify where?***
- An extra 20,500 home sites on top of the previously mooted 20,000 in the North Wyong Structure Plan. Giving us a further **40,500 homes or some extra 101,250 residents.** *Locations again not identified in the plan.*
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- We have faceless Bureaucrats already selecting "**Gosford**" as the **Central Coast's Capital** without any of the 335,000 odd residents having any say on it.
- Those same faceless bureaucrats fill the **Coordination and Monitoring Committee** of which there are **no Central Coast Community Representatives**.
- The EP&A Act's **Current Review**, blatantly states ...

Quote. "the opportunity to remove any unnecessary complexities or outdated rules which make the system hard to use " **un quote.**

I ask for whom, the Department, the developer or the community?

Quote. " the regulator supports the day to day requirements which include **L.E.P's & D.C.P.'s** for land use zonings, development standards & other planning mechanisms. Key operational provisions for development, assessment & consent processes"

Un quote.

I can only assume that this means that Local Government Plans **will not be overridden by State Government Plans?**

The new Proposed Regulation changes spruik...

- Enhanced community participation, yet does not indicate how.
- It promotes Strategic Planning , **yet the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036** does not and cannot identify where uncontrolled planning, both housing **or mining extractions** are to occur.
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- It spruiks... Increases in Probity (being strong moral principals) & Transparency, yet if Lea Shearer is any example, then we have no hope & this State Government has failed miserably.
- It states... Making the Planning System simpler and faster for all **Participants.**

Who do you consider as a participant ?

Is it the developer or the residents and ratepayers?

Quote. "to better accommodate growth, new housing & economic development, whilst protecting the environment". **Un quote.**

This is nothing more than an Oxymoron, as both current and previous State and Local Governments have failed to do exactly that. **"Protect the Environment or Human Health of the region"**.

As I have already demonstrated...

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There is enough **History & Evidence** that many of the major developments in this same region as the proposed Wallarah 2 Coal Mine, have failed in their moral duty & environmental licensing agreements, **Not to Impact** on the Region's environment or human health, to warrant at least a **deferral of this project** or the **complete dismissal of the entire proposal.**

- Breaches of licensing approvals through EPA audits.
- The EPA itself, dobbing themselves into I.C.A.C. for failure to oversee the damage done by the illegal dumping of 500,000 tonnes of illegal waste at Mangrove Mountain & Spencer .

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- The EPA's turning a blind eye to Ash Dam issues raised by the community at Doyalson & about to become exposed as a Major Environmental Disaster for the region.

The community has lost all faith in the Planning processes and Laws of the State. We can only hope that a new Central Coast Council will stand up and be counted for their constituents, even if it means another trip to the Land & Environment Court.

When a Regional Plan for the next twenty years, states as Goal 2., Under clause 8.1, I **quote...** "to protect the Central Coast's scenic amenity by planning for development that respects the distinct qualities of different places" **un quote.**

I can only assume that the Link Rd., where the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine infrastructure is proposed, is part of the Northern Central Coast's gateway and part of this Coast's scenic amenities?

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I say it is this Hearing Panel's duty, to respect & comprehend the uncontrolled environmental and human health abuse of this region over many decades and to **dismiss this entire proposal**, as it is the **Cumulative Impact** on the region from projects such as this and other proposals, that are not wanted by the community or able to be controlled by any so called N.S.W. Government authority.

Thank you...

Gary Blaschke OAM

