

Sandra Norman

3rd November 2017

The Commissioners
NSW Planning and Assessment Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY 2000
Email: pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

Re: Wallarah 2 Coal Project – SSD 4974

This Commission has been given the responsibility of determining whether the above coal mine should or should not go ahead. This is at least the third Planning Assessment Commission that has been charged with reviewing and making recommendations.

You will have many documents in your hands from members of the public as well as experts in their particular field (supported by scientific documents), objecting to this coal mine. You will, of course, also have documents from the proponent claiming that they use best practices to ensure our water supply will not be compromised, best monitoring practices and remediation. Unfortunately, the track record of coal mining companies has been very dismal on all these points.

The water supply for the Central Coast region will be put at great risk of loss if this coal mine proceeds. As has been said many times before, this is a rapidly expanding region and a guaranteed uncontaminated water supply is essential.

The mining company in its own documentation admits that there will be an overall loss of water including groundwater. This in itself should be enough reason to say no to this coal mine. It is unrealistic for the mining company to claim that they can supply clean uncontaminated water in the event of water loss.

This region, along with many others in NSW have experienced drought conditions – some of them quite prolonged. We simply cannot put the regions' water supply at risk. This is not about 'not in my backyard' – it is broader than that – it is about protecting the water supply for the whole of the Central Coast region.

There are considerable doubts over the economic benefits of this mine. Overall, the mining operation will contribute less employment opportunities than other industries. Jobs that would be generated if there was certainty about a secure water supply and a clean environment for employees to work in. Jobs that are clean jobs which do not negatively impact on the environment.

Ultimately, it is the people of New South Wales who will bear the financial cost and negative consequences if this mine is approved.

As was stated at the hearing today by David Harris MP, there are too many questions raised about this mine. Each Planning Assessment Commission adds more conditions – conditions that the mining company cannot fulfil. Once the damage has been done, it is too late. You cannot shut the gate once the horse has bolted! This alone should be enough to deny approval for this mine.

Each time this application is considered, more and more conditions are applied which allows the mining company to come back again and again with another amendment. I urge you to say no to this mine and ensure that the mining company cannot once again re-apply. There are too many questions and doubts about this mine. The precautionary principle should be applied.

Yours faithfully

Sandra Norman