



Community Environment Network Inc.

An alliance of community and environment groups from Lake Macquarie, Wyong and Gosford.

Avril Lockton
Deputy Chair
Community Environment
Network
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NSW 2265

July 9 2015

Submission re: NSW Mining Policy

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Community Environment Network (CEN) operates on the Central Coast of NSW. CEN promotes ecologically sustainable development and actively defends any threats to ESD.

CEN supports the Stage 1 Reforms to the NSW Mining Policy: Environmental and social concerns are to be adequately considered alongside economic concerns.

CEN supports the proposal that economic considerations are no longer to be the principal consideration under Part 3A of the NSW Mining SEPP and that environmental and social concerns should be adequately addressed.

Community and stakeholder concern has been created that social and environmental impacts have not been adequately addressed by the NSW government. Economic growth has seen to be the overriding priority of the State government at the expense of the communities impacted and the environment.

The Central Coast community was recently given opportunity to comment on the proposed major southern extension of the Centennial Coal mine at Mandalong, Lake Macquarie. The mine extension was approved by NSW state government earlier this year. The NSW Planning Assessment Commission held a community meeting on Feb 12, 2015 at Bonnells Bay Youth & Community Hall. The largest number of submission writers and attendees at the PAC hearing were employees from Centennial Coal's Mandalong mine. The PAC recommended that approval be given for the southern expansion of the mine. This was a clear case of the economic benefits of the mine extension proposal far outweighing the environmental, and community concerns of the Lake Macquarie and Wyong residents. Large quantities of contaminated waste water from underground workings are piped from

the Mandalong mine to the surface and will continue to contaminate Muddy Lake and its outlet into Lake Macquarie. Mandalong residents complained that trucks from the mine cause damage to roads and make the roads unsafe for children and cyclists. For too long economic benefits of mining have taken precedence over the community and environmental impacts of mining in NSW.

Lake Macquarie residents at Boolaroo are still suffering the consequences of lead mining in the last century which has had a detrimental ongoing impact on community health especially children in the Boolaroo community. Lead remediation is still ongoing. The transport of coal by rail and ship in the Hunter has had a deleterious health impact on residents in the Hunter Valley with a higher incidence of asthma than the State average due to the fine dust particles becoming airborne along the rail corridors from mine to port or from power stations.

Climate change due to the burning of fossil fuels is the major global environmental issue of the 21st century – yet NSW still mines coal on a large scale and continues to give approval to huge new open cut coal mines eg Shinua on the Liverpool Plains announced this week. The future prosperity and well-being of NSW depends on forward thinking and the embrace of new technologies eg solar, wind and tidal to generate the state's energy requirements. The state government should be a leader in embracing new renewable technologies to supply the state's energy needs. The state government seems to be embedded with the coal industry and lacks the drive to make important changes.

Economic considerations should no longer be the principal consideration under Part 3A of the Mining SEPP. Environmental and social concerns should be adequately addressed.

NSW government has a responsibility to reduce its carbon emissions to slow down the rate of climate change so that Australia can contribute substantially to global initiatives to reduce the rate of climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Yours sincerely,
Avril Lockton

Deputy Chair – Community Environment Network