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17 November 2017

NSW Planning Assessment Commission
Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Government
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000
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Dear NSW Planning Assessment Commission

re: **Wallarah 2 Mine Wallarah 2 Coal Project**
Application Number SSD-4974

I request that you please stop the **Wallarah 2 Mine Wallarah 2 Coal Project** (Application Number SSD-4974). The Wyong Water Catchment Area, its Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) and the growth of small sustainable farming enterprises are at huge risk of irreparable damage if the mine is allowed to proceed. It is not in the community's interest.

Our property is one of the 245 landholders that will be affected by subsidence. To say that the effect on its natural environment will be disastrous is not an overstatement.

Since acquiring this property a few years ago we have been undertaking activities with Greater Sydney Local Land Services and committed considerable time and resources to look after, conserve and rehabilitate it. We particularly focussed on restoring the environmental health of the riparian zones and natural watercourses that flow through our property.

Although this property is only about 40 acres we believe it is almost unique in the Dooralong Valley. So far we have identified four different native vegetation areas, including the presence of a Lowland Rainforest on Coastal Floodplains EEC.

Even more significantly within this EEC, environmental assessment feedback is that this property, and possibly that of a neighbour, contain the **ONLY AREAS OF FLAT LAND RAINFOREST LEFT ANYWHERE IN THE DOORALONG VALLEY!**

Extrapolation analysis of expected subsidence impacts data (EIS Wallarah 2 Appendix H) indicates subsidence of 480 mm – 1300 mm of these addresses. **SHOULD THE WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT GOES AHEAD ALMOST CERTAINLY THESE LAST AREAS OF FLAT LAND RAINFOREST IN THE DOORALONG VALLEY WILL BE IRREVERSIBLY DAMAGED AND LOST FOREVER!**

Everywhere throughout the Dooralong and Yarramalong Valleys landholders and land-carers are working to be in harmony with our natural environment. There is a growing commercial industry in small scale sustainable agriculture that aims to generate an income while conserving and protecting the natural heritage that protects our waterways.

I believe that over 80% of the type of vegetation groups that are now defined as EECs have been removed over the years. In the Dooralong and Yarramalong communities there is a strong desire to be able to undertake agriculture into perpetuity and protect and enhance the water supply. These burgeoning agriculture initiatives are already a significant benefit to the health, lifestyle and economy of the Central Coast with a recognised large potential economic multiplier effect into the future of the region and therefore NSW.

The first ever Harvest Festival for the Central Coast in June 2017 was been hailed as a success by Council with over 10,000 people attending the two day festival across 23 event hubs! (Source: <https://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au/about-council/council-news/media-releases-2017/inauqural-harvest-festival-reaps-rewards>) ALLOWING WALLARAH 2 MINE WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT TO PROCEED WILL RESULT IN SUCH SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES ACROSS THE LANDSCAPE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE FRESH WATER SYSTEMS OF THE VALLEYS. WITHOUT A HEALTHY, CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE FRESH WATER SUPPLY THESE LOCAL AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIES WILL DIE.

As a member of the local community and a directly-affected landowner, I thank you for the opportunity to write this submission and respond to the proposed Wallarah 2 Mine Wallarah 2 Coal Project. At no time have we been consulted by the mining company to discuss the impact on our land, or its effects upon us.

I request that you please stop the Wallarah 2 Mine Wallarah 2 Coal Project (Application Number SSD-4974). The Wyong Water Catchment Area, its Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) and the growth of small sustainable farming enterprises are at huge risk of irreparable damage if the mine is allowed to proceed. It is not in the community's interest.

Yours sincerely

Robert Pritchard.