



# Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

PO Box 589 Sutherland NSW 1499 | office@ssec.org.au  
www.ssec.org.au | ABN 96 127 431 611

## MOD2 North West Mains Development

### Wongawilli Coal Mine

(Major Project 09\_0161)

## Sutherland Shire Environment Centre Objects to the UEP

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre has long been concerned about the impacts of mining in the Special Areas of the Illawarra water catchment. The southern boundary of the Sutherland Shire adjoins the Royal National Park and the water catchment areas with many residents living in electorates that either border or include the Illawarra Special areas.

Peabody's plan to expand longwall mining under the Woronora reservoir was regarded with disgust by Shire residents. Sutherland Shire Environment Centre collected 10,700 signatures on a petition objecting to Peabody's expansion which was presented in NSW parliament last year but the State government approved the project regardless. Part of the justification was the provision of jobs so it is interesting to note that operations in this mine have been halted as of January 4 for a period of 4 months and workers forced to use paid leave due to mining being economically unviable.

The current proposal by Wollongong Coal (WCL) to build an underground roadway is preparation for future extraction of coal from the North-West and South-West domains, which has yet to be approved. Therefore the economic assessment is incomplete and the proposal should be rejected on these grounds.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre raises several other objections to the proposal:

#### **It poses an unacceptable risk to water security.**

- We do not accept that the driveage under Lake Avon and Gallehers Creek is covered by consent given in 2011.
- No costing has been provided for water loss through mine inflows and discharge of polluted water into Lake Illawarra via Robins Creek.

#### **It will exacerbate climate change.**

- The NSW government has committed to a 35% reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) by 2030. GHG have been woefully underestimated in the proposal by use of a low carbon price and proportioning the cost to NSW as a fraction of global population.
- There is no plan to offset or use a renewable energy Power Purchase Agreement.
- Greenhouse gas emissions are underestimated by using a low carbon price and proportioning the cost to NSW as a fraction of global population.
- After the 2019/2020 bushfire season, the need to address climate change has never been clearer. The current policy in Australia allows Scope 3 emissions from exported coal to be ignored but to do so is not rational given the damage to environment, lives and economy caused by accelerating climate change.

The Sutherland Shire Environment Centre strongly believes that protection of water and climate should be prioritised over the mining of coal. The coal industry is in terminal decline and projects, such as this one bring an added risk of bankruptcy, leaving a legacy of environmental damage and unemployed workers. We urge the government to reject this proposal and implement policies that retrain workers for a future in renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tassia Kolesnikow', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tassia Kolesnikow  
Chair, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre