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To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to write against this dubious proposal.

I understand that there are a number of numbers in relation to the building of this coal terminal, but to me, i find these numbers irrelevant.

My response is subjective, with a bit of logic mixed in. The fundamental point is that coal is dirty. I don't want it mined. I don't want it transported, whether near people or not, with covered wagons or not. I don't want it burned for electricity or otherwise. It is oily and it pollutes. I don't like coal and what it does, whether as a dust when transported, an energy source when burnt, or as an export.

It does not burn cleanly and the air is always dirty near it.

The birds don't want it near them. The fish don't want to swim in it. My daughters don't want to breathe it. My wife and I don't want to breathe it.

I don't want to make money from it. I don't want to export it to other nations to burn it and pollute their populations. I don't want to keep driving up economic activity.

There are alternative energy sources which we can produce. Last quarter, my household produced 3 times the amount of power that we needed for consumption. Reduce your use and produce clean energy is our motto.

We have started painting the outside of our house. The front of our house in Tighes Hill was filthy and it was covered in coal dust. Pure and simple. I don't need an analysis to tell me this.

Stop this terminal and start reducing the amount we use and export. No more.

Regards,

Mark Bergamo

(50)

M. Bergamo

PAC statement

Commissioners

Hello, my name is Mark Bergamo. I am still a resident of Tighes Hill since the last PAC. I don't think that the first PAC, nor the NSW State Government, listened to my first statement re: T4. I'm confused. Why are we having a second PAC if the concerns of the vast majority of the residents were listened to in the first place?

My statement at the last PAC required the Commissioners and the State Government to treat us, the residents and those most affected by the opening of T4, to be decent, meaning to treat us by those accepted standards of morality and behaviour of our society. Decency would require that the Earth be respected, that the health of the people of the Hunter and the whole planet not be threatened unnecessarily. Not profits before people; that's indecent.

And the Commissioners were sitting there, all decent and listening, and then indecently rejected our opposition. The government indecently, through legislation and sheer recklessness and greed, ignore our concerns of affected health, environment and economy.

Again, I am not here to argue the so-called facts of T4— I'm not a scientist, economist or lawyer. I leave that to the experts, again.

What I will speak to is the fact that T4 to my mind does nothing to benefit the people of Newcastle (and of the world for that matter) in a decent and sustainable way. T4 will require me to continue to vacuum coal dust from my ceiling cavity, to wipe the dust from our walls, to wake

to the sounds of shunting coal trains, and wonder what it will all do to my two young daughters' lungs.

My wife and I moved to Newcastle because it resonates with community values and ideals. I am moved by the number of people who live in the adjoining suburbs of T4 who continue to say "no" to this proposal.

In my last speech, I spoke of the profits for Port Waratah and for the mines not contributing much to the economy of the Hunter. Those profits have diminished greatly even since then.

Coal's dead, baby, coal's dead, despite what our illustrious prime minister might misguidedly think.

There are many corporations lining up to lead the campaign to get other large organisations to divest themselves of their investments in fossil fuels. Universities, superannuation companies, media outlets – even the Catholic Church has issued an encyclical to take decisive action, here and now. The Pope even said that the Earth was starting to resemble a pile of filth. These organisations are doing the decent thing for the planet, but here in NSW, we are not.

It will not be decent to allow T4 to go ahead and watch new mountains of coal being excavated and shunted here, piled up then taken overseas, only for other countries to increase the amount of carbon entering our atmosphere, all for the sake of profits which will not remain here

anyway, and then one day I'll have to pay to clean up T4 when it is decommissioned.

Coal is short-term. Short-term burning, short term profits, short-term gains for a short-term few, but long term, indecent harm, to residents, the environment and to our economy.

Are we fulfilling our obligations to the future generations of Novocastrians who will have to look to rehabilitate another contaminated site like the one left behind by BHP?

The last time I was part of a planning process was in the proposed reopening of a copper smelter at Port Kembla in the late 1990s. The Port Kembla residents opposed its reopening on environmental and health grounds.

The residents' wishes and rights were ignored – in the name of progress, not decency.

The copper smelter unleashed its pestilent fumes over that community for ten years before it was closed. It was closed because of an ongoing dogged campaign by those same local residents fighting sulfur dioxide emissions up to 400 times those allowable by the World Health Organisation.

Don't force us to lead a dogged campaign of our own for something which in all decency should be rejected now.

Thank you.