

CENTRAL COAST GREENS

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Just NO! No more coal mines

Central Coast Greens repeat their multiple calls to stop the Wallarah2 coal mine, given the terrible news today that the Federal Environment Minister Melissa Price has not used the risk to Coast water supplies as a reason to halt the mine.

“If Jilliby Creek or the bed of the Wyong River are damaged, they cannot be repaired. Coal from this mine will add to emissions which are contributing to a climate emergency. It makes no sense in 2019 to approve a new coal mine anywhere in Australia, and certainly not on the Central Coast” said Greens NSW Upper House candidate, and Coast resident, Abigail Boyd

The zombie coal mine Wallarah2 faces a challenge in the state Land and Environment Court over provisional approval. Since 2018, the Federal Environment Minister has been considering its impacts on groundwater, as part of “water trigger” provisions. That decision has been delayed for some time, but cynically in the summer holidays, when most people’s attention is on returning to school, Minister Price has released her decision. There are a number of conditions, including a prohibition on long-wall mining until a Groundwater Management Plan has been approved by the Federal Minister.

Greens MP and Planning Spokesperson David Shoebridge said:

“This is another dreadful decision from the Coalition on climate change, coal and water.

“This is a mine the Liberals promised would never go ahead, but now it’s being backed in at both a state and federal level.

“With a state election just months away, we need a state government that finally steps up and says no to the coal industry.

“The Greens are committed to stopping this mine and protecting the central coast, if necessary by legislation that strips away previous approvals,” Mr Shoebridge said.

“Yet another government has ignored the fact that the water supply for 300,000 (more than all of the Northern Territory) has been placed at risk. They have abandoned the precautionary principle and people’s rights to water, putting us all at risk” said Abigail Boyd.

-ENDS-

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