

Letter to Editor Express Advocate 19 June 2007

A proposal to develop a coal mine demands the full test of its merits. When the Wallarah 2 Coal Project environmental assessment report is completed and available for comment the community should and, no doubt, will put it to the test.

What I have repeated many times is that the only mine plan we would submit is one that would safeguard the region's water supply.

Alan Hayes (Express Advocate June 8) continues to completely misunderstand the situation about water made from the deep underground mine, despite repeated explanations and provision of information. As outlined in the Preliminary Assessment Report and in other information available on our website since early last year (www.wallarah.com.au) it is made clear that in early years of mining there will be a water deficit. We plan to use recycled water for as much of our water needs as practicable, probably including treated sewage effluent from the nearby sewage treatment plant.

In later years, increased seepage water would be encountered from the coal seam and adjacent deep sedimentary strata. However, this seepage is not sourced from the surface stream or alluvial aquifer but from the deep bedrock. It is also of inferior quality due to its higher salinity but the mine can potentially treat and use this water for its own industrial needs with likely surplus used by other industry and thus reduce the demand on the domestic water supply

The fact is that the geology of the region, allied with our mine planning approach, would prevent surface water from being affected by a deep mine. This is a statement that has been made a number of times to the wider community and specifically to the Community Liaison Committee members. The CLC has been shown both physical evidence in terms of drilling cores as well as technical diagrams to illustrate the geology.