

Letter to Editor,
Central Coast Express Advocate

For publication

Alan Hayes is not the only one "mystified" by a dry mine claim. So too is the Wallarah 2 Coal Project team.

At no time has the Project team ever suggested to the Community Liaison Committee that the proposed mine would be "dry".

The wider community, and indeed the Community Liaison Committee, have been informed through the Preliminary Assessment Report, as well as through briefings, that there would be up to 2 megalitres a day of water generated by the mine.

Mr Hayes may have mistaken comments about the mine not flooding with water, despite being under creeks, as indicating a "dry" mine.

All underground mines generate water and this is always managed to ensure safe working conditions. The water from this mine will be used for mine operations, including dust suppression. It is anticipated that after initial establishment years there may be sufficient to provide some water for use by neighbouring industries thus reducing the need to take from the community water supply scheme.

Water in the mine will not come from surface supplies or the alluvial aquifer which are used by the community or individual property owners through bore pumping. The water will be derived from the coal seam aquifers and adjacent layers which are much deeper, up to 600 metres deep, and is of lesser quality but is suitable for use in the mine and its surface facilities.

Any water required from the Central Coast domestic water supply system will be for human consumption, that is drinking and washing.

Peter Smith
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Walarah 2 Coal Project