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The Editor
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The decision by the Federal Government to assess and approve the Wallarah 2 Coal Project's ecological assessment and protection of listed species is not a setback for the project despite claims by some opponents.

The Coal Alliance is mistaken (Another Setback for Coal Mine Plan, Express Advocate 23/01/08) to think the acceptance of its submission is somehow a setback.

The company submitted an application to the Federal Government for it to consider whether the project is one to be classified as a "controlled action" and this was done. The submission made by the Alliance is simply a normal response to that routine process which invites comments to be made.

This is one of many processes that projects such as this go through and it is part of the rigorous analysis that should and does occur. The Community Liaison Committee had been made aware of this assessment process.

The Coal Alliance calls for information and assessment yet surprisingly has vigorously advocated non-cooperation by landowners and Council in the project's investigations and research, such as water and social impact studies that are required for the continuation of our thorough assessments.

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