

The editor
Central Coast Express Advocate

For publication

Dear Sir

The idea that the Central Coast might be "clouded in dust" (*Alliance we won't settle for coal dust* May 11) if the Wallarah 2 Coal Project is approved is both silly and an unnecessary cause for concern for residents.

The proposed mine surface facilities will be close to the Freeway some four kilometres from the Blue Haven community.

Quite apart from the fact that no-one would expect the NSW Government to approve a project that could even potentially threaten what the Alliance suggests, the Wallarah site is further from the Blue Haven community than much larger coal loading facilities at the Munmorah Power Station. The Wallarah 2 stockpile and loader will be something less than one third the size of the power station coal handling and loading facility that has been in place for decades.

Some, but not all, Blue Haven residents also know that between their homes and the Wallarah site there is an existing working quarry. Residents want to protect their current air quality amenity, and should be relieved to know that the presence of these two existing major facilities as well as the Motorway link has had no significant impacts because modern environmental controls are in place. Our project also will be developed with stringent environmental controls for dust management to avoid impacts on air quality at Blue Haven.

We encourage members of the community to question our project; that is a helpful process that ensures the best possible proposal will be submitted, but we invite you to judge this project on its merits and not on scare mongering.

The company will be one of many that make submissions to the upcoming Strategic Inquiry and later in the year we will submit the Environment Assessment Report for public scrutiny. The Blue Haven community will see in that EAR that there will not be a dust issue for them.

Peter Smith
Manager Environment and Community
Walarah 2 Coal Project