

## Latest News - PAC Report Supports Mine Approval

The independent review report by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) has been released and is available now on the PAC website – [www.pac.nsw.gov.au](http://www.pac.nsw.gov.au).

The report provides a detailed examination of the Wallarrah 2 Coal Project development application and follows the public hearing which was held in Wyong in April, when a number of stakeholders made presentations and submissions.

The PAC report has outlined its recommendation that the Project be approved

subject to a number of stringent conditions, including matters related to water management, water supply protection, noise and dust management and extensive ongoing monitoring. Specific audits and reviews recommended by the draft conditions of consent would need to be carried out by Wallarrah 2 and independent auditors.

Further details on the approval process are set out in this newsletter. Work is ongoing in terms of land access matters and we continue to consult with key landowners in relation to the development proposal.

## Wallarrah 2 continues to lead the way with advanced hi-tech water monitoring systems

In March, Wallarrah reported on new groundwater monitoring facilities that it had installed in several locations across the Project area. The completed monitoring bores, known as vibrating wire piezometers, are now providing additional data to supplement the already very significant information collected and analysed by the Project. Kenny Barry, Wallarrah 2 Project Manager said, “We are excited to see the amount of data obtained from these hi-tech instruments. The additional data is being used to support the extensive information that has been used for groundwater modelling to date. These instruments are just one example of the type of scientific monitors

that we will use to ensure the Project’s effects are closely tracked and analysed.”



## An update on the Wallarah 2 Coal Project

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In April, as requested by the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard, the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) undertook a public hearing as part of their review of the proposed Wallarah 2 Coal Project.

This public hearing was held at Wyong Golf Club on 2 April where a panel of three commissioners conducted the hearing.

Walarah 2 welcomed the opportunity for the PAC to consider submissions from the community through this platform and is looking forward to receiving the PAC's final assessment in the coming weeks.

"Conducting a public hearing as part of the review process ensures the assessment remains fair and transparent," said Project Manager Kenny Barry.

"Walarah 2 has received no special consideration for this project. Our project is subject to all the same standards and procedures as any other mine project in NSW.

"As an organisation committed to ensuring high standards and with our commitment to supporting the local community, we are happy to undertake the full and thorough assessment process for a project of this nature.

"If the project is approved Wallarah 2 is very confident the region's water supply will be protected while delivering major benefits to the Central Coast including up to 805 direct and

indirect ongoing jobs during mine operations and an extra \$600 million in local business turnover annually," added Kenny.

"The Central Coast desperately needs the new jobs and investment Wallarah 2 will deliver."

Walarah 2 are currently waiting for the PAC to deliver its report to the now Department of Planning and Environment to then begin the final determination stage for the Project.

The public hearing was undertaken in order for the PAC to:

- a) consider the Planning and Infrastructure's (P&I) assessment report of the merits of the project;
- b) consider the EIS for the project, the issues raised in submissions, the formal response to submissions and any other relevant information provided on the project during the course of the review;
- c) assess the merits of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to potential water and biodiversity impacts of the project; and
- d) recommend any further measures required to avoid, minimise, and/or manage the potential water and impacts of the project.

## Committed to the future and the local community:

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### Walarah 2 Coal Project is committed to:

- significantly increasing local job opportunities on the Central Coast with a policy that targets 70% local recruitment for its operational workforce
- creating more than 1000 direct and indirect jobs at the peak of construction
- creating 300 direct jobs during the 28-year operational life of the mine
- creating more than 500 local flow-on jobs in sectors such as manufacturing, retail, hospitality, building, transport and services
- undertaking its business in a manner that respects the people of the Wyong community.

# What's next? The PAC assessment process

## The PAC assessment process:

Department of Planning and Infrastructure assesses the project and prepares assessment report



Independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) conducts public hearings and conducts its own review of the project



PAC completes its review and reports its findings to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, enabling the department to finalise its assessment

## Where we are in the planning process



PAC makes final determination on project, using its own review, public input and the department's assessment report



Commonwealth will review the PAC's final determination to ensure project complies with the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

# Wallahah 2 Community Foundation Mentorship Program

The recent Sculpture on the Greens exhibition saw Kim Vredeveld, Wallarah 2 Mentorship Program recipient and local emerging artist unveil her sculpture entitled, 'Bleached Blonde' at the Gala Opening on April 4.

Kim, who was introduced to the program by the Wyong Neighbourhood Centre, was hard at work for more than four months with Col Henry (who heads the Sculpture on the Greens project) as her mentor, learning new skills and working towards the delivery of her first major sculpture.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be mentored through this program. The

advice and direction I have gained through Col's mentorship has significantly contributed to my growth as an artist and shaped me as a sculptor," explained Kim.



## Bleached Blonde

With great concern for climate change and coral 'bleaching' in the Great Barrier Reef I wanted to make a piece that emphasised the effects of the devastation being caused. It is estimated that by 2030 all coral in the reef will be bleached (dead). Almost half is already gone now. I hope my art will speak out and make people more aware of the damage being caused in Australia and internationally.

## Wallarah 2 pledge \$100K to the local community

Wallarah 2 has committed \$100,000 to local projects to benefit the Wyong community, increasing the allocated funds under the 2014 Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant scheme from \$60,000 to \$100,000.

During the application period for grants in March/April, the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation was overwhelmed by submissions, with more than \$185,000 in funding requested.

23 projects which aim to assist or benefit the environment, community wellbeing and educational outcomes within the Wyong Local Government Area were successful and will receive a share of the pool of funds.

In 2013 the Foundation presented nine grants in total. Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager of Wallarah 2 said that Wallarah was thrilled to be able to partner with many more organisations this year, supporting 23 valuable community initiatives that will offer real value to the region.

“The calibre of applications was outstanding. In fact, it was due to the high number of

quality applications this year that we decided to almost double the level of funding, in a bid to support as many projects as possible.

“As shown by the full list of successful applicants (below), there is a great mix of projects that have been allocated funding, from pre-schools and cultural initiatives to art schemes, mentoring and health programs – some of which may not have been able to get off the ground without the support of the Foundation.

“We are committed to the Central Coast. Our Community Foundation is just another way we are working with the community, supporting initiatives in the areas of environmental sustainability, community wellbeing, training and education to achieve real and lasting improvement.

“The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation provides an opportunity to invest in the future of the region, by helping to launch initiatives which aim to add long term value to Wyong and surrounding communities,” concluded Peter Smith.

Small World Preschool Wyong  
San Remo Community Men's Shed  
China Australia Friendship Association  
Sculpture on the Greens  
Global Care Australia (Foodcare Charmhaven)  
Norah Head Boating and Recovery Club  
Coast Shelter  
Central Coast Sub Committee of NSW  
Active Retirees and Mentors  
The Father's Table Outreach  
Tuggerah Field Archers  
Soldiers Beach Surf Lifesaving Club  
Wyong District Museum and Historical Society

North Entrance Lifesaving Club  
Northern Lakes Power AFL  
Cancer Council NSW  
Wyong Catholic Parish  
House of Praise Turning Point Foundation  
Camp Breakaway  
Toukley Preschool  
Tex Morton Touring Museum  
Australian Air League – Doyalson Girls Squadron  
Central Coast and Hunter Burns Survivor Support  
Northlakes High School

## Culture on the Coast

Wallahah 2 is set to support the Chinese Cultural Festival for the second year, helping the organisers build on the popularity of last year's event in Memorial Park at The Entrance. The success of this event each year relies heavily on in-kind support and grant funding. In offering a hand to the China Australia Friendship Association, the Wallarah 2 Coal Project was pleased to provide funding to support the event by way of its Community Foundation grant program. Pictured with Peter Smith from Wallarah 2, receiving the \$2000 cheque, is Ruby Eaton.



## Keeping the wheels rolling at Coast Shelter



Coast Shelter is the largest provider of emergency accommodation and support services on the Central Coast. Recently the organisation acquired a refrigerated van that allows the group to collect and distribute food via its food bank. The funding from Wallarah 2 will go towards the running costs of the van and ensure Coast Shelter can continue to provide fresh nutritious meals at the community centre and food packages to families in crisis. Pictured accepting the grant funding from Wallarah 2's Peter Smith is Laurie Maher, the executive officer who will oversee the project.

## Right on target for a brighter future

After the Tuggerah Lakes Field Archers had to move from their Ourimbah State Forest location, which had been their home for 35 years, the organisation was in need of community support to assist in funding and building a new 'club house'. To lend a hand to the archers, Wallarah 2 recently presented Club President, Ed Hayes and Tristan Hair - who will represent Australia at the World Archery Championships in America in August - with a \$3000 cheque to fund the purchase of a shipping container which will become the organisation's new club facility.



# Wyong Neighbourhood Centre aims to change bad eating habits

With the support of Wallarah 2's Community Foundation in 2013, by way of a \$1690 grant, the not-for-profit Wyong Neighbourhood Centre charitable organisation is set to launch an eco-garden educational program by mid 2014.

The program aims to teach some of the most vulnerable within the community about good nutrition, offer access to garden-to-plate cooking workshops and educate local residents about the simplicity of healthy cooking and how diet relates to health and general well-being.

Talking about the importance of the community garden and the invaluable assistance provided by Wallarah 2 to the Wyong region, Jane Weekes from the Wyong Neighbourhood Centre said, "Our aim is to take a holistic approach to teaching the community about a sustainable lifestyle. We see many people visit the centre who have lost the skills involved in cooking basic, healthy, affordable food.

"We want to start people thinking about a healthier way of life and encourage them in a social and friendly way. We also hope to influence the next generation, giving children a better understanding of where food comes from and offering them a chance to be involved in the garden where they will be able to watch the food grow – before eating it".



Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager, Wallarah 2 said, "We are pleased to offer funding to help the Wyong Neighbourhood Centre in their long-term goal to educate and make a difference to the lives of some of the most disadvantaged in the Wyong area.

"The cooking workshops, which will be funded predominantly from the grant, will impact on the lives of families, children, those with special needs, seniors and more. It will also offer the community a sense of ownership of the garden and promote people to take responsibility – and understand the importance - of what they put into their bodies".

## Contact Us

Our offices are at 25 Bryant Drive Tuggerah and you are most welcome to visit. Please note that it is advisable to telephone first to ensure the person who can best help is available.

The Wallarah 2 team is also available on the phone 02 4352 7500 or via email [info@wallarah.com.au](mailto:info@wallarah.com.au), whichever is more convenient. See our website at [www.wallarah.com.au](http://www.wallarah.com.au)