

Wyong Shire Ratepayers & Residents Association Inc.

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Submission
No 86

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30th May 2005

INQUIRY INTO COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE
NSW Standing Committee on Public Works
Legislative Council Parliament House
Sydney 2000
Fax: 9230 3054

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission to the Coastal Infrastructure Inquiry.

Our major points of concern are as follows:-

- 1. Overdevelopment of the coastal strip:** we have been waiting for the Minister for Planning to approve the inclusion of the Central Coast in the Coastal Zone Mapping as released in 2004. The process has been long and drawn out and over this time many developments have been approved for this region which otherwise may not have been approved. Notable is the Warnervale Industrial Subdivision a Wyong Shire Council owned development presently being assessed by Wyong Shire Council. This subdivision is on land identified previously as a wildlife corridor, containing threatened and endangered species, and was to be included in the Wyong Conservation Strategy. However, the Council had this sensitive area removed from the plan to permit them to develop their site. The Council was requested by DIPNR to undertake a Local Environmental Study to identify Employment Lands in the Shire some time ago, however, they haven't been very committed to completing this study prior to approving new industrial subdivisions. The same goes for The Entrance area which has seen the approval of unacceptable development in recent years, thus changing the face of the coast and taking away its community identity without justification. We request that urgent action be taken to stop undesirable development along this coastal strip.
- 2. Population:** This links with the overdevelopment of the area and the concerns for the environment and water shortages. The coastal regions need to establish what is, for each area, a sustainable population and put strategies in place to sustainably manage or to reject more development. The quality of life and the environment so many of us enjoy are at risk of overpopulation along the coast.
- 3. Green Corridors:** we support maintaining the identity of each coastal region with green corridors.
- 4. Water:** While we suffer water shortages in this area we consider that the Councils' rush to build a desalination plant is not justified when there are many other strategies which have not been adopted. What we would like to see is improved subsidies for water conservation measures. All households should have water tanks – we receive enough rain on the coastal strip to ensure our needs are met by this measure alone; collection of run-off water along the coast for re-direction to storage facilities; increased cost of reticulated water to industrial and commercial users with incentives to re-use roof water; re-use of water and the use of water saving devices.
- 5. Fluoridation:**
 - a. Human Health:** our Association has long opposed fluoridation of the water supplies. It costs Wyong Council \$100,000 per annum for little or insignificant benefit. To establish new plants costs in the vicinity of \$1m and this expense could be better utilised by providing proper dental care directly to those who need it. The Health Services have also failed to consider the long-term health

effects of fluoridation on the health of the population. We know that fluoride accumulates in the bone and soft tissue, in particular the pineal gland. It is responsible for other health related illnesses such as ADD/ADHD in children, increased Dental Fluorosis, Arthritic conditions, increased hip fractures in the elderly and other health problems which particularly affect persons with chemical hypersensitivity. Research on these illnesses and their relationship to fluoridation is well documented and recognised. It is time for Australia to come to terms with what they are forcing on the general public.

b. **Environment:** The sources of man-made fluoride pollution result in above-normal concentrations, which impinge on terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and on man. The exposure of living organisms to above-normal concentrations of fluoride, which induces fluoride accumulation by the organism, can result in an alteration of the organism's biochemistry and morphology. Directly or indirectly, such changes can restrict the organism's ability to maintain its ecological position. Fish and other aquatic species have suffered injury from fluoridation as they tend to accumulate fluoride from the environment, primarily in the skeleton (including the gills) and exoskeleton. There is clear evidence that wildlife species are more vulnerable to fluoride toxicosis than are livestock species. The impact seems to be most severe on predator species, because they must capture their prey and because they are more susceptible to the bioaccumulation of fluoride through their food chain.

The Australian Dental Association (ADA) admits that fluoride is a toxin, but argue that “damage to aquatic life is possible only at much higher levels than that found in optimally (1 – 1.2ppm) fluoridated water”. The problem is that fluoride is not biodegradable and will not break down like other substances released into our water systems.

Environmentalists opposing fluoridation argue that if fluoride is dangerous at much higher levels, and it is not biodegradable, then logic suggests that it will continue to accumulate until it is at a much higher level and therefore become poisonous to any living thing that comes into contact with it. This may not happen for some time, but by their own argument the ADA admits that they are slowly poisoning the Earth’s water supply – the lifeblood of the planet. We therefore ask for an urgent review into the practice of fluoridation with a view to ceasing the activity altogether like other overseas countries - France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Austria and others.

6. **Mobile Phone Towers:** we are concerned about the proliferation of these structures and the environmental pollution and the electromagnetic radiation which comes from them. These towers should not be in close proximity to schools and residences putting the community at risk of the adverse health affects such as:- increased rates of cancer, headaches, sleep disturbance, depression and infertility. We feel that there needs to be more co-operation of the mobile phone providers to co-locate their facilities on one tower rather than place so many in one area. There needs to be an overall strategic plan for the provision of these services.
7. **Transport:** The Central Coast needs an integrated and equitable transport system. It should be included in the Government bus area and a reliable and affordable system established. We are concerned about the proliferation of trucks on the major road system. There needs to be an upgrading of the rail system and incentives in place to encourage the transport companies to utilise rail rather than road. Our rail system is not fully utilised and while these large trucks continue to utilise our roads we will continue to pay the costs for the lives lost and improvements to the infrastructure.

We trust our comments on coastal infrastructure and development are of benefit to you in your Inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Sylvia Turner,
Secretary,
Wyong Shire Ratepayers & Residents Assoc.