

# T4 – Focus on community feedback

## Community Information Sheet

Issue No. 2 October 2011

### A QUICK UPDATE FROM THE GM...

In April 2011, Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) commenced an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the T4 Project, as part of the NSW Government's planning and approval process. The T4 Project is proposed to involve:

- The development of approximately 300ha of industrial zoned land, located west of the existing PWCS facilities
- The construction and operation of coal stockyards and rail facilities
- Development of marine side infrastructure (e.g. wharves) and ship loading facilities.

EMGA Mitchell McLennan has been engaged to undertake the environmental assessment, supported by a range of technical specialists. Coakes Consulting has been commissioned to undertake a Social Impact Assessment (SIA), including an extensive community consultation program. Over the months of May-July 2011, representatives from PWCS and Coakes

Consulting have met with local residents and representatives from a range of community groups and organisations to inform them of the Project and to identify potential issues/impacts.

This sheet outlines the outcomes of this consultation, and highlights what we have learned so far from our discussions with the community.

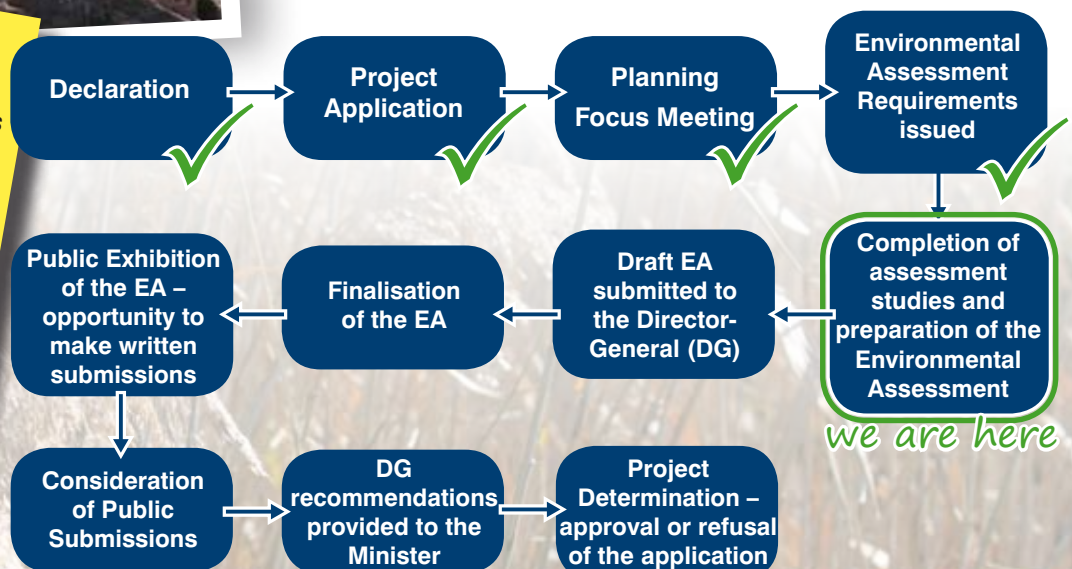
Many of our environmental studies are also nearly complete, so the sheet also provides further detail on how you can learn more about the outcomes of these studies in the next phase of the assessment program.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all those people who gave up their time to participate in an interview/group meeting with us and/or those who participated in the 400 household telephone survey we have undertaken in suburbs surrounding our operations – we greatly appreciate your feedback.

Lindsay Crutch  
General Manager – Terminal 4



### KEY STEPS IN THE GOVERNMENT APPROVAL PROCESS



#### CHANGES TO THE APPROVAL PROCESS

The new NSW Government has made changes to the process for conducting Environmental Assessments for Major Projects.

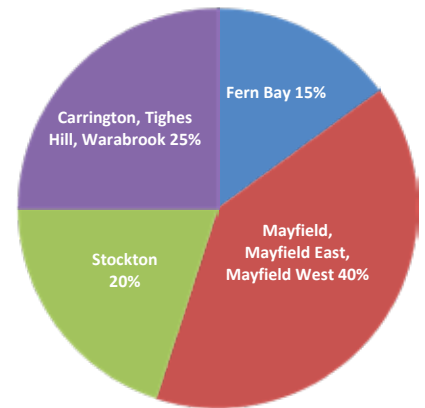
However, since the T4 Project has already begun the formal process for project declarations and approvals, it will continue to be assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

# YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR COMMUNITY

## WHO WE TALKED TO

Since June 2011, we have met with over 100 stakeholders personally and called 400 households to obtain community views on the project. Stakeholders have been drawn from the following stakeholder groups:

- Local government
- State government
- Community and special interest groups
- Local business and business associations
- Commercial fishers
- Tourist operators
- Recreational and sporting groups
- Non-government and not for profit organisations
- Education and training providers
- Environmental groups
- Residents – across the suburbs of Tighes Hill, Carrington, Mayfield, Mayfield East, Mayfield West, Warabrook, Stockton and Fern Bay.



Respondents from telephone survey

## TALKING NEWCASTLE AND THE HARBOUR – WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

*“Newcastle has 99 per cent of city benefits without the city hassles”*

*“Newcastle is a passionate place that embraces its past”*

*“People are generally parochial and like to support the town and look after it”*

*“Novocastrians take pride in their working class roots”*

*“People identify as Novocastrians first, New South Welshmen second”*



## WHAT YOU VALUE ABOUT THE PORT

We asked people to share with us what they liked to do in and around the Port and identify its many values and uses. Recreation values were most commonly identified and included activities such as boating, sailing, rowing, kayaking, fishing, bird watching, cycling etc.

Areas of the Harbour were also valued for their environmental significance e.g. the wetlands, birds, frog species; and for commercial activities such as fishing, tourism, and industrial use.

Other areas were valued for their history/heritage, educational value and because they provided access to other areas e.g. transport routes for business and commerce, cycle ways for recreation, access to the waterways and to Newcastle's beaches.

We also heard how areas such as the CBD provide an important link to culture and lifestyle within the City of Newcastle.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

As part of the consultation we also asked community members about their aspirations for the future. Community members discussed a wide range of ideas for making Kooragang Island, their immediate community and the broader Newcastle community a better place to live, work and play in the future. Some of the ideas which were raised included:

- Improved cycleways around the Port area
- Ferry to Maryville
- Community bus for Mayfield
- Improvement of road structure
- Improved rail network
- Lower limits on suburban roads
- Improve visual amenity of Cormorant Road eg tree planting
- Alternate rail routes for coal transport (away from suburbs)
- Remove rail line in CBD
- Greater community investment/support
- Development of community based health services
- Increase in number of health professionals
- Assistance for homeless
- Storage area/clubhouse for outrigger canoes
- Greater community involvement in community issues
- Improve community safety
- Enhance open space/community art
- Redevelopment of Mayfield library
- Recreational facilities for youth
- Public toilets in Stockton shopping centre
- Development of open space in Carrington/Tighes Hill/Islington Park/Kooragang Island
- Community meeting space/hard infrastructure (Islington)
- Mayfield renewal – more parks and open space
- Picnic areas for families to enjoy the harbour/river
- Support for tourism sector e.g. viewing platforms
- Support for local business
- Greater investment in 'green technologies'
- Integrate the University campus within the CBD
- Employment opportunities
- Decentralise government agencies from Sydney to Newcastle
- Development of a Master Plan for the Port
- Greater communication of industry plans for the future in the Port area
- Coordinated approach by the coal industry to community consultation
- Ongoing preservation of natural environs surrounding Newcastle
- Address climate change issues such as erosion in Stockton
- Development of a Visitors Centre at the Wetlands.

# YOUR THOUGHTS YOUR THOUGHTS

## TALKING PWCS

As part of the consultation program we were interested in understanding more about your thoughts on PWCS, your knowledge of the T4 Project and the company's planning process; as well as what you saw as the key issues/impacts of the Project.

### ...ABOUT PWCS GENERALLY

#### WORD ASSOCIATION

You identified the following words when we asked what you thought about 'Port Waratah Coal Services' ▼



### ...THE COMPANY'S SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

- 54% said PWCS is always willing to listen to people's concerns
- 57% thought PWCS was taking measures to address environmental issues
- 50% believed that PWCS was conducting reliable monitoring
- 40% of people surveyed had some concerns with PWCS operations more broadly.

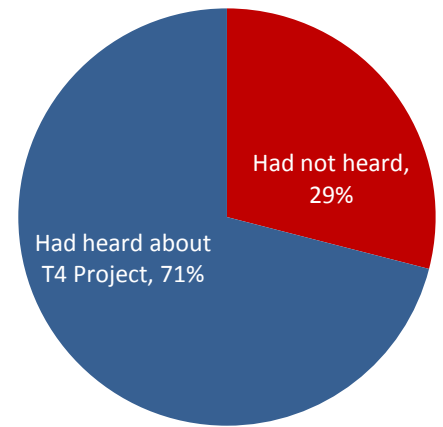
### ...PWCS' ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

- 87% thought that PWCS makes an important contribution to the local economy
- 54% felt that the local community benefits from the activities of PWCS.

# YOUR THOUGHTS YOUR THOUGHTS

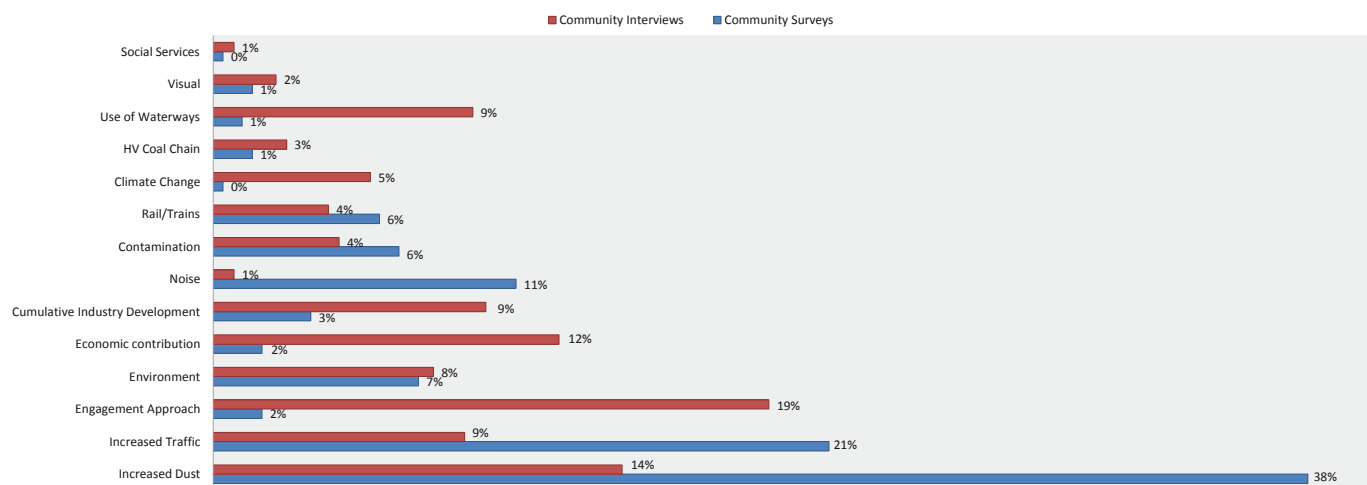
## T4 SUMMARY

- **71%** of people we spoke with had heard about the T4 Project
- **61%** were moderately to highly supportive of the Project
- **73%** were moderately to highly supportive of the presence of industry in Newcastle
- **58%** of people surveyed had some concerns in relation to the T4 Project.



## YOUR TAKE ON THE ISSUES

Community members identified both positive and negative issues in relation to the T4 Project as highlighted in the following chart ▼



In summary, dust was the overwhelming issue both for key stakeholders and for the general community, and was largely raised in relation to dust from stockpiles. Despite PWCS being one of a range of industry operations based on Kooragang Island, concerns regarding an increase in traffic (particularly heavy traffic) along the Cormorant Road Corridor were identified. These concerns seemed heightened given current traffic volumes along this stretch of road, especially at peak times.

Noise was also raised (more frequently in the community survey) and seemed largely related to rail/train movements.

Community residents also acknowledged the positive economic contribution of the project and the company's activities in the region and PWCS' approach to engagement with the community around the T4 Project.

Environmental issues focused on continued preservation of the wetland communities and endangered species such as migratory birds and the green and golden bell frog, with these issues of particular importance to key environmental groups.

Issues relating to climate change, contamination and clean up of the proposed site, use of waterways for recreation and shipping and broader industry development within the Port were also noted, but with less frequency. A smaller number of community members raised concerns around visual impacts of the Project as well as impacts on social services.

## ENVIRONMENT

*"It is an appropriate site for the development, so long as you meet all the environmental planning requirements and learn from the lessons of the past."*

*"People enjoy seeing the birds."*



## PORT INDUSTRY

*"PWCS are the leaders of in 'Rolls Royce' of the port."*

*"There is so much development big one."*

*"I love the working harbour"*

## DUST/AIR QUALITY

*"Coal is dirty work - but it's also a dirty dust."*

*"Nothing that I can complain about, so long as stockpiles are water sprayed."*

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS

*"It's more pleasant living on a working harbour"*

*"You will add value to the community through"*

# IN YOUR WORDS IN YOUR WORDS

## WATERWAYS AND SHIPPING

*"What makes it a good port for PWCS makes it a good port for other users."*

*"Our club has existed and used the harbour for over 100 years."*

*"I love the horns of the ships – I love the working harbour."*



## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ENHANCEMENT

*"I think this (consultation) is a great exercise you are doing – it's commendable."*

*"We want to see enough information to make sensible decisions."*

## HUNTER VALLEY C

*"Nobody wants to etr wants to profit from i"*

*"Impacts of the prop area. There is a direc for major new coal m Liverpool Plains."*

Industrial matters on the harbour – they are the

ment on Kooragang that any impact becomes a

– I’m not that offended by industry.”

as dust is being monitored and coal

ur - people can see jobs and economic growth.”

n this project.”

## S IN YOUR WORDS



### COAL CHAIN

hically support coal – but everyone

posal extend far beyond the immediate  
t link between T4 and current proposals  
mines throughout the Hunter and



### CLIMATE CHANGE

“Increased tonnes and the downstream impacts of coal will contribute to the global climate crisis.”

“We’d like to see better leadership, like investment in a green grid for Mayfield.”

### CONTAMINATION

“We wouldn’t have come back to live if BHP were still here – environmental standards weren’t as stringent back then as they are now.”

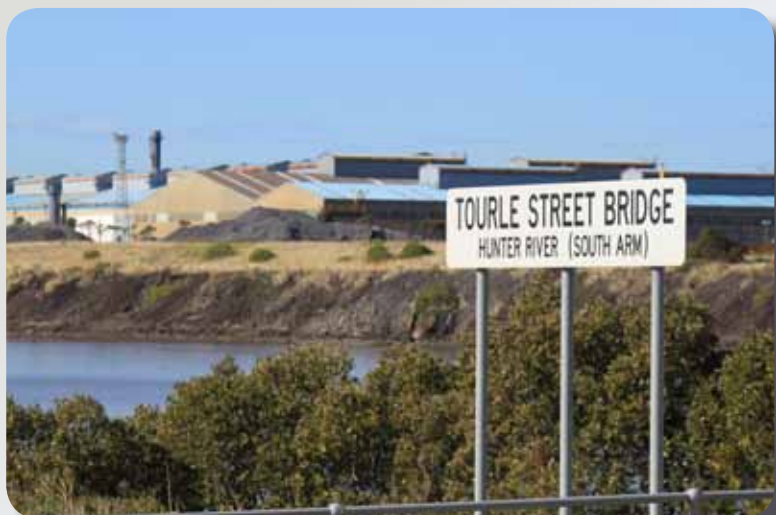
“The species are coming back after BHP, we don’t want to lose that again.”

“I think it will be a good thing to see the site cleaned up.”

### ROADS/TRANSPORT

“We can’t take any more traffic build up in peak hours.”

“It should have been built as four lanes (Tourle St Bridge).”



## WHERE TO FROM HERE? – HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

Over the coming months, as the environmental studies for the Project are completed, there will be a number of opportunities for key stakeholders and the wider community to be involved in the next phase of the T4 planning and assessment process. Some of these mechanisms include:

- **Community Dialogues** – these sessions will provide an opportunity for key stakeholders to better understand the outcomes of some of the key environmental studies and explore potential management/enhancement strategies with PWCS and its consultants.
- **Open Community information days** – in October we propose to hold a number of general community information days to provide feedback on the outcomes of the environmental and social assessment studies. Through the SIA and consultation program some key issues have been identified by the community e.g. dust, traffic and these forums will enable community residents to meet members of the Project and specialist consultant team and learn more about the study outcomes – we will keep you posted on dates and times for these sessions.
- **Project Updates** – October will also see a number of project briefings held with key stakeholders such as local government, business groups etc. These follow on from briefings undertaken earlier in the Project and again will focus on key assessment outcomes and next steps.

We look forward to your further involvement in the next phase of the T4 Project.



## THANK YOU & FEEDBACK

If you have further comments on any information presented in this information sheet; would like to raise any additional issues; or would just like to meet with one of the Project team, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Call: 24 Hour Community Line (02) 4907 2280

Website: [www.pwcs.com.au](http://www.pwcs.com.au)

Email: [contact\\_us@pwcs.com.au](mailto:contact_us@pwcs.com.au) or [enquiries@coakesconsulting.com.au](mailto:enquiries@coakesconsulting.com.au)

Write: Port Waratah Coal Services, T4 Project, PO Box 57, CARRINGTON NSW 2294

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