

River Discharge & the Irrigation Area of 5.3kms of Riverflats/Floodplains for the Disposal of Mine Wastewater



Coalshaft Creek
Diversion



Mammy Johnsons River
Below the Duralie Mine



Karuah River



Mouth of the Karuah
River & Port Stephens

Duralie Coal Plans

- ❖ Duralie applied to the Department of Environment & Climate Change (DECC) to vary their Environmental Protection Licence for a **“Trial River Discharge”**. The DECC were informed by the Department of Planning that they could not grant a licence variation for river discharge of mine waste water until:
 - Duralie applied to the Department of Planning to modify their consent to allow river discharge, as their current consent does not permit river discharge of mine wastewater.
- ❖ If the Department of Planning approve the modification to Duralie’s consent then the DECC can vary the Environmental Protection Licence to allow river discharge of mine wastewater.
- ❖ Duralie have started procedures to seek approval for an extension of the existing pit with two additional open cut pits to the west and the northwest of the main pit area. This will create 3 more toxic final voids and take the life of the mine up to 2020 instead of 2011 as originally approved.
- ❖ Additional trains running/hours run, with increased noise, dust, blasting etc.
- ❖ Additional mine waste water irrigation area of 895 hectares outside the DA. (on river flats & floodplain).
- ❖ Permanent “controlled releases” (river discharge) for up to 20 years via Coalshaft Creek or directly into Mammy Johnsons River. Coalshaft Creek runs directly into Mammy Johnsons River.

Where Duralie are up to

- ❖ Duralie were granted approval on the 3-12-08 for an additional 3 dams with the combined capacity of 775 mega litres, thus increasing the capacity of the mine to contain dirty mine water on site. This makes you wonder why they still need river discharge?????
- ❖ Duralie need to modify their consent before they can do anything, this is where we must stop them.
- ❖ Duralie have applied to the Department of Planning to modify their consent to increase the mine’s waste water irrigation area by 895 hectares and for “controlled releases” (River Discharge) of mine waste water to Mammy Johnsons River.
- ❖ In Newcastle Herald 3-2-09 Mr Lord stated plans for future mining beyond 2030.
- ❖ This modification application & environmental assessment will be put on public exhibition on the Department of Planning website shortly and the public will be given about 28 days to put submissions in objecting to this modification.

Will the Government give Duralie approval to drain their dirty mine waste water into our river system & out through Port Stephens?

This so called **Controlled Release** is **River Discharge**, and will be nothing more or less than a licence to enable Duralie Coal to pollute Mammy Johnsons River, the Karuah River and Port Stephens at their own discretion.

We cannot stress how important it is to fight to save the **“No River Discharge Condition”**, we need to inundate the Department of Planning with submissions to stop them from modifying their consent for river discharge & irrigating the river flats & floodplain with mine waste water as this is a huge problem.

We believe that **“River Discharge”** will have a detrimental effect on our rivers & connected waterways and will eventually put the health & safety of the downstream water users at risk.

The main issue is the **“No River Discharge”** condition. We have already done the hard work to get the **“No River Discharge”** condition, from 1995 to 1997 and have continued to keep it to this day.

It is a “No River Discharge” mine, and that should be it full stop, end of story.

The community cannot be held responsible for the mines paid experts coming up with a bad & faulty planning process.

The community were granted the **“No River Discharge condition”** to protect Mammy Johnsons River and the water quality, now the mining company want to take it off us because they have a problem with their excess mine waste water.

It will be cheaper, quicker & easier to dump it into our river system and **then whose problem will it be?**

Public Meetings To Update the Community - All Welcome

Public meetings will be held at the following halls to update the community regarding Duralie's plans for river discharge, additional wastewater (contained water) irrigation areas, mining updates & submission writing.

- ❖ ***Allworth Community Hall, Allworth on 21st March 2009 at 2.00***
- ❖ ***Karuah Community Hall, Angel Ave Karuah (opposite Police Station) on 28th March at 2.00***
- ❖ ***Stroud School of Arts, Cowper St (Main Rd) Stroud on the 4th April at 2.00***

To view the Duralie Coal Project Description & Preliminary Assessment go to the Department of Planning website at:

<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=viewjob&jobid=2761>

Put Duralie in the search on the left hand side & open Application & Declaration for Part 1 & Part 2 as well as the Director Generals Requirements. Water pages (10/14 & 20/22) To print all is about 50 pages.

This is the preliminary assessment (maps included) but will give you an idea of the path they are going to take when they submit their final application to the Department of Planning in the near future.