

Dust fallout nothing to sneeze at, say residents

Central Coast Express Advocate - Wednesday, February 28, 2007

OPPOSITION continues to mount against coal mining in the Yarramalong and Dooralong Valleys.

The latest concerns centre on dust a proposed coal loader will produce when it is built to service a mine west of Blue Haven.

More than 250 people voiced opposition to the plan, by Korean company Kores, at a meeting at Blue Haven Community Hall on Monday night.

Meeting organiser and Australian Coal Alliance spokesman Alan Hayes said the gathering was unanimous in its opposition to the loader.

"There was a resounding show of community strength against a coal mine in the water catchment and a coal loader near a residential growth area," he said.

"I watched the eyes of those at the meeting, which turned from fear to anger.

"This was a powerful message to the Government and the coal company that these plans won't be tolerated."

Mr Hayes said the coal loader would be built only two kilometres from a Landcom residential estate at Blue Haven.

"Despite what Kores might say in its glossy brochure, no one can stop the spread of dust," Mr Hayes said.

"Worse still, the plans are for 42 years of mining so the children's children of those at the meeting would be affected."

Speakers at the meeting included residents of the Hunter Valley and Chain Valley Bay, who have experienced coal dust problems, along with Labor Party, Coalition and independent candidates for the March 24 State election.

The Coalition has already committed itself to stop the mining, while the Government has announced an independent review of the plans.

The coal alliance will hold a public rally at Wyong Racecourse on March 11.