

Appendix 2

List of speakers at the Public Meeting

Date & Time: Friday 7th April 2017

Venue: Lithgow Workies Club

Meeting Schedule	
10:00 am	Opening Statement from the Chair – Ms Abigail Goldberg
Registered Speakers:	1. Brian Andrew Nicholls (Centennial Coal)
	2. Geoff Miell
	3. Keith Muir (Colong Foundation for Wilderness)
	4. Curtis Jones
	5. Graeme Osbourne (CFMEU)
	6. Ian Tanner
	7. Ben Smith
	8. Jeffery Young
	9. Peggy Fisher (Lane Cove Coal & Gas Watch)
	10. Theresa Grima
	11. Mark Hoy (Lithgow District Chamber of Commerce)
	12. Clr Stephen Lesslie (Lithgow City Council)
	13. Andrew Muir (Lithgow City Council)
	14. John Tilley
	15. Philip Smart
	16. Brian Marshall (Blue Mountains Conservation Society)
	17. Brett Monaghan
	18. Jon Pringle

Summary of the Public Meeting

Issues raised during the public meeting and in written submissions provided at the meeting are summarised below:

Springvale Coal Mine

- No change is being proposed to the physical works or operations of the mine.
- There will be only minor changes to the footprint or hours of operations.
- The increased extraction will have negligible environmental impacts.
- Expediting the extraction of the resource could hasten the depletion of coal reserves in the region – possibly by 2024.
- More rapid extraction of the resource brings forward problems and might produce a more rapid decline and deeper impact on both mine employment and employment at the Mt Piper power station.
- Mount Piper power station may run out of locally supplied coal. This could result in the need to import more expensive coal to run the power station.
- The modification could jeopardise Australia's coal interests by expediting the exhaustion of Lithgow's coal reserves.
- Proposed production increases are reflective of currently strong global coal prices.

Economy and employment

- Lithgow has a higher than average unemployment rate and needs additional jobs.
- The mine will provide employment opportunities for the local community.
- The additional employment will result in additional spending at businesses in the Lithgow community.
- The increase in production from the mine is necessary to allow the mine to adapt to market fluctuations increasing its viability and hence providing greater certainty of employment.
- Mining is an important employer within the Lithgow Community, however there needs to be a focus on 'life beyond coal'.
- This is a transition period and tourism should become more of a focus and economic contributor over time, as has been the case for Katoomba.
- Refusal of the application could have significant social and economic impacts on the community.

Water impacts

- The 22% annual production increase will see an increase in water discharged. This water needs to be appropriately treated.
- There has been destruction of swamps in the region that has resulted from longwall mining.
- Changes to the hydrological system due to mining has impacted on local swamps:
 - o Underground cracking has had a significant impact on groundwater levels.
 - o Water flows within the swamps have been significantly impacted, effecting the health of the swamps.
 - o Swamps, which are a considerable distance away from the underground mining, are being impacted by the development.

- Applicant has stated that there has been 'negligible' impacts on swamps. The Galvin report finds evidence to suggest the impacts are more than 'negligible'.
- The swamps are geographically unique and 'facilitating' their destruction through an offset program is not an acceptable outcome.
- Underground aquifers are not reparable and mining should be stopped if seen to be impacting them.
- Request that the Applicant's bond be increased by \$20m to make the mine take serious consideration of its impacts on the waterways.
- Toxic water is still being released from the Western Coal Services facility.
- The water treatment system should be expedited.

Noise impacts – low frequency noise

- The proposed increase in production may lead to additional noise produced by the ventilation system, particularly low frequency noise.
- The Applicant has previously prepared a low frequency noise report. The entirety of the report and its findings have not been released to the community.
- Request further advice on low frequency noise impacts resulting from the existing mine works and the proposed Modification, and potential mitigation actions.

Other matters

- The consultation process has been manipulated by the submission of large quantities of standardised 'form' letters rather than genuine individual objections to the project.
- Due to the potential environmental impacts of the application, it should be dealt with as a new Development Application rather than a Modification.
- This Modification should not be dealt with in isolation of the other pending Modifications. These Modifications should be dealt with as a single Application in order to consider cumulative impacts.