

Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today. My name is John Tilley and I'm here in support of the proposed modification for Springvale.

I am currently an employee of Springvale Colliery. I have worked for Centennial Coal as a Multi-skilled Mineworker across two sites for over 20 years and have lived in the area all of my life. My daughter is the 5th generation of my family to be born and raised in the area. 15 plus of her direct relatives either work or have worked in the coal industry.

This is the fourth time I have felt it necessary to speak at a PAC Hearing in support of my job and the jobs of my workmates. It's not a task I take lightly, I'm a far better miner driver than I am a public speaker, which is definitely not my forte.

Over these previous PAC Hearings I have seen all sorts of tactics used by professional lobbyists. These people have a single-minded focus which puts people's livelihoods at risk and shows scant regard for the ramifications on people's lives and the community, to which the majority have no attachment. This time the tactics used so far seem to be to cut and paste a form letter as the public submissions on the Major Projects website reveal. In this letter everything, including the kitchen sink has been addressed, with the exception of the actual proposed modification.

This proposed modification, in my opinion, doesn't impact on swamps, waterfalls, the Cox's River or Sydney's Drinking Water as the lobbyists and individuals from near and very, very, far away would have you believe. This proposed modification, as far as I can see, aims to

1. Provide more employment for the life of the mine; up to 450 full time employees. This has a definite benefit for the community.
2. Increase the run of mine coal production, which in all reality reduces the overall life of the mine; which should appease some detractors.
3. The increase to the run of mine stockpile footprint, which is within the current site boundaries, will not have any impacts outside of the current site.

In my opinion, the benefits of this proposed modification greatly outweigh any perceived negative impacts expressed by individuals or groups in their form letter, which opposes such projects based on a single agenda of opposition to mining and development in general.

Energy security has been in the national spotlight recently and has proved to be one of the nation's priorities. Springvale is the only supplier of coal to the local Mount Piper Power Station which is responsible for producing around 15% of the States power and employs approximately 300 people. The detractors of this proposed

modification do not address how this demand is going to be met if Springvale is no longer a viable operation. This will not only have a major impact on our local community, but will have implications on a state and national level.

I want to make this short and sweet as I feel there are smarter people than me, with more degrees than a thermometer, who have been paid a lot of money to prepare thorough reports and submissions for the relevant government bodies. Their reports address all issues raised so far in a more detailed way than I can put forward today.

But, I would like to reiterate, this is not only about coal mining or the environment, this is about people and the community of Lithgow and surrounds.

Thank you very much.