

PAC – Centennial Coal Springvale Mine April 2017

My name is Graeme Osborne I am a home grown family man and resided in the Lithgow since birth, I have also married a local girl and we have raised our family in the area.

I have been involved in the local mining industry for just on 36 years, I started in March 1981 when I was able to get a start at Angus Place Colliery which I worked for 24years.

Since 2003 I was offered an opportunity to fill a vacancy in the role of the UMW District Vice President and then 2004 year CFMEU union elections were held and I was successful in being elected to the position, a position I still humbly undertake currently. As part of my role I am also nominated by the CFMEU Mining and Energy peak body to the position of Employee Trustee Director on the industry Superannuation Fund a position that I have held since 2005.

I am again humbled to stand before the PAC Commissioners to present and speak supporting Centennial Coal, the Springvale Colliery, its workforce and the Lithgow community reminding everyone of the importance of Springvale to the local community and its impact to meeting the State's energy needs.

The CFMEU South Western District did submit a letter dated 18 August 2016 in support of the Modification application put forward by Centennial Coal in regard to its Springvale Mine.

I would like to remind the PAC that this community and more importantly the workforce at the mine has endured a protracted assessment process (over some 3 years) to finally secure a planning consent from Government that allows Springvale to continue operating for a further 13 years.

During the last part of that process with the delay in securing the approvals for Springvale the company was left no other option than to stand down the majority of the Springvale workforce. This stand down lasted 8 weeks and was hugely unfair and disruptive to the workforce and significantly impacted their families and the local community.

Springvale is an underground longwall mine that has been operating for over two decades, employing in excess of 300 people and underpinning the local economy. This proposed Modification by Centennial Coal is simply to allow Springvale to **increase** the workforce, production and the coal stockpile.

The Modification the Company is now seeking is detailed in the Executive summary and I make the points

- An increase in the workforce from the current approved 310 FTE including contractors to 450 FTE
- An increase in the run of mine coal production from the current approved 4.5 million tonnes per year to 5.5
- An increase in the existing ROM coal stockpile at the pit top from the approved 85,000 tonnes capacity to a 200,000 tonnes capacity, with a minimal increase in the stockpile footprint by 0.3 ha.

This Modification makes no changes to the current approved mining methods or techniques, no changes to life of the consent or the approved mine plan, no changes to the hours of operation, no physical or significant changes to the existing underground mining operations.

And very minimal changes to surface infrastructure at the pit top will be required to expand the coal stockpile area

This Modification will in fact improve the operational flexibility of the Springvale Mine and enhance its ability to respond to market opportunities. The Modification represents a more economically viable mining operation, secures local jobs, continue to support and provide economic sustainability by way of the royalties to the NSW Government.

Members of the PAC this mine supplies coal to Mt Piper Power Station which is aiding in **helping to keep the lights on in NSW.**

Everybody has recently witnessed what is occurring in other states with blackout. Thankfully the blackouts in South Australia coupled with recent hot summer days have injected some reality and common sense into the energy crisis debate in this country.

The reality is coal underpins our nation's energy needs and coal will continue to play an important role in ensuring as a nation we have affordable and secure energy.

Springvale is not only important to our local community it plays an import role in ensuring we continue to have affordable and secure energy in NSW.

As part of this often prolonged process is the ability for anybody anywhere to write and summit a letter either in support for or against the application for the project.

I have taken the time to browse over a number of pages on the PAC website of the written submission and I am amazed at the number of people who are followers due to the same letter being submitted on close to 75% of those objecting to the submission.

LIKE TO READ A LITTLE FROM A STANDARD LETTER

These detractors don't even reside in the local area, contribute nothing to our community, but have the audacity to object to the survival of our local community.

I am also wondering why the government continues to use this process of written submissions when you look at the amount of duplication within those objecting to the modification. These benefits to the mine and the community come at no additional impact to the environment representing a 'win-win' scenario.

Those objecting to this Modification seem to be the same individuals from the same groups that opposed Springvale securing its consent in late 2015. They will also be the same faces that will again front at a PAC in Lithgow in the near future to oppose Springvale's Water Treatment Project.

This application I thought would have been seen a positive by the detractors and the environmental groups as it could see the accelerated mining schedule impact on the cessation of the mining operations at an early than expected date, or put simpler if the company utilises these changes that will have a huge bearing on the mines current 13 year life expectancy.

This may be a little forward thinking for those when you are just really opposed to coal and coal fired power under the guise of being defenders of the environment. The benefits of this modification can be achieved with little or no risk on the environment.

This approval is in the best interests for the people of the community, the environment and is a state significant matter due to the mine being the only supplier for coal to the local power station.

Another positive impact from the approval of this modification will be the additional direct and then the indirect employment opportunities and certainty of employment of the existing employees. This will see the flow on effect of those direct and indirect individuals wages being a benefit to the community and in turn the state.

Finally, the CFMEU again reinforces that we support this Modification to the Springvale consent and ask the PAC Commissioner to recognise the importance of this mine to our community and the State of NSW recommend and support the approval of the application by Centennial Coal.

Thank You

Graeme Osborne.



THE UNITED MINeworkERS SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT

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18th August 2016

Mining and Industry Projects
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Dear Sir/ Madam

SPPRINGVALE EXTERNSION PROJECT – PRODUCTION INCREASE MODIFICATION

The CFMEU South Western District has previously supported application's that have been put forward by Centennial Coal to extend or improve the life of the Springvale Mine and secure employment for their workforce and help keep the local community economically viable. The union has also supported the extension application by way of both written and verbal submissions to previous PAC hearing and meetings.

Springvale Mine is an underground coal mine in the Lithgow area. Established in 1995 and operational in 1996 Springvale Mine has been contributing to our local economy for over two decades.

Springvale currently secures the employment of over 300 full time employees and close to 40 contractors, but also supplies ancillary work to couriers, engineering and fabrication workshops, machinery repairers, conveyor belt companies, the list is endless.

The workforce from Springvale provides an important and positive contribution to the local Lithgow community through employee's remuneration and continued support of local business, organisations and charities through donations.

Springvale is not only a significant local employer, it is a major contributor to the Lithgow community and the only mine capable of supplying coal to Mt Piper Power Station, also a significant local employer, which in turn provides electricity to 15% of the state.

The modification is seeking to increase the number of employees, increase coal production and increase the coal stockpile capacity. It is not proposing any changes to the current mining method, the current mine plan or the existing surface footprint. Also an increase in production will not result in any potential impacts beyond Springvale's current planning approval.

We support this modification and understand it will allow Springvale flexibility to respond to any production efficiencies and benefit from any uplift in the coal market.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Osborne
CFMEU Mining and Energy
South Western District Vice President

President
Andy Honeysett

Secretary
Lee Webb

Vice President
Graeme Osborne

Vice President
Bob Timbs

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Industry Safety & Health Reps
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