

**SPRINGVALE WATER TREATMENT PROJECT,  
WCS MOD 1 AND SPRINGVALE MEP MOD  
2 PAC - 17 MAY 2017**

**BLUE MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

# **Springvale Water Treatment Project**

- Society welcomes the decision to transfer and treat Springvale Mine discharge plus storage in Thompson Creek reservoir rather than discharge.
- Concerned that there will be an increase in pollution discharged from emplacement site (Western Coal Services)
- Conclusion in DPE Ass Rpt that salinity levels from LDP006 (WCS) “likely to within historical levels over an annual basis” doesn’t satisfy “neutral and Beneficial use” test of the Sydney Drinking Water SEPP. Eg no account of maximums.

## Western Coal Service Mod 1 (WCS)

- There will be increased salinity in discharges from LDP006 (into Wangcol Ck) because of placing residual waste on WCS site;
- LDP006 Environment Protection Licence (EPL) has no upper limits on salinity levels nor any plan to reduce them;
- WCS very problematic and polluted site which should not be added to without addressing the issues. Site is porous, has interconnectivity and cumulative impacts are being ignored;
- Options like lining emplacement areas have been ruled out;
- Improvements to discharges are more likely to succeed where the consent conditions give explicit direction on how to improve associated EPLs

# Western Coal Service Mod 1 (WCS) continued

**Recommend that the PAC includes in its conditions of consent:**

- Proponent must commit to plan to reduce salinity levels from LDP006 to a level appropriate for Coks River catchment (Eg put in Upper Coks River Action & Monitoring Plan - Springvale consent conds;
- No increase in salinity from LDP006 from Mod 1;
- Treat the residuals waste before it is placed on WCS;
- Independent experts' report to DPE Secretary, in consultation with EPA and WaterNSW, on improving WCS' onsite management and pollution reduction

## Springvale MEP Mod 2

- Mod 2 removing first target for salinity improvement and eliminating chronic toxicity of discharges from Springvale mine LDP009 should be refused.
- Reasons: fundamental to original consent for SV MEP and satisfying “neutral or beneficial use” test in Sydney Drinking Water SEPP; these targets are to improve health of Cocks River and SDW; poor precedent; once removed the Planning Minister cannot add a similar planned improvement in the event of water transfer scheme; need to meet targets was foreseeable.
- **PAC Recommendations** - If PAC does decide to approve Mod 2, prudent to delay making these changes in force until the actual date the transfer scheme will operate is confidently known.

