

Good afternoon Commissioners, Ladies & Gentlemen

My name is Robert Cluff I am the owner of [REDACTED] in Wallerawang, this is a family business which I started with my wife 23 years ago.

Over the years the business has grown from one employee to what we have today being 30, ranging from three Chefs', 3 apprentices and 3 trainees, which we feel is a very important role, to nurture the young people of our area and be able to obtain a job and learn a trade in such a small community, along with our senior & casual staff. We have faith in our future here in our community, which is evident in the continual expansion and renovations of our business.

All of us here in our community need the security of our jobs & livelihood and for such a wonderful project as the Water Treatment Plant from Springvale Mine to Mt Piper Power Station would create this security for so many people.

My understanding was that this Water Treatment Plant was a requirement to keep Springvale Mine operating to comply with standards, but now we have an objection, which are only a few, but do have a very big impact on progress and expansion of any new development in this area, whether it be an extension of an already existing coal mine or a new development such as the Water Treatment Plant.

As a lifelong resident, ex coalminer, father and grandfather and a businessman in Wallerawang I have seen this area grow and decline over the many years with the opening & closing of some of our greatest employers. We as a community have held together through so many of these changes to make this a place where our children can raise a family and be proud to live here and not move on because there is no employment for them to stay "home".

The business my wife and I have created in Wallerawang has not gone without hard work, but without all of the support of the companies who utilize our facility we would not survive on tourism alone, yes there is a place for tourism but it will not support businesses in this area on its own.

I am sure that we would all agree that the expectations of a modern organization today, are that they will operate in a socially and responsible manner in accordance with conditions of consent. We would expect nothing less of Centennial Coal & Energy Australia for example.

If this project is not approved, it will have a huge impact on our business and our staff and any future of expansion which creates more employment.

We cannot afford for any more loss of industry in our area for the well-being of the community and future growth.

I thank the Commissioners here today for their understanding of the importance of this Water Treatment Plant approval and hope for a favourable outcome of this application.

Thank you