

~~Good morning~~ <sup>AFTERNOON</sup> my name is Darrin Francis, I have worked at Springvale for the past 23 years and I am the current CFMEU lodge secretary at Springvale and I have lived in the Wallerawang/Lidsdale area all of my life. I would like to thank the commissioners for the opportunity to speak here today.

To tell you the truth I have been struggling to find something to say that I have not already said, this being the fourth time I have had to stand in front of a PAC committee and beg for our jobs, but while I have struggled to find something new to talk about our detractors and apponents seem to find it quiet easy, they talk about the exact same topics every time, it dosent matter what they are apposing its the same arguments and the same photos that have been put forward at every other PAC meeting whether they are relevent to what that meeting is about or not, but to stand here at this meeting and speak against this modification or to submit an objection on line speaks volumes about their agenda. You see for those of you that were not at the first two PAC meetings this is exactly what they wanted, a water treatment plant and the power station to use the water, well..... that's exactly what is being proposed here, the ball is rolling they are just asking for some more time to be able to complete this massive undertaking.

What does this tell me? This tells me that nothing will ever be enough, it dosent matter how many conditions and rules are put on and met by these companies nothing will ever be enough, and as far as I am concerned you have lost all credibility or what little credibility you had left. You continually use scare tactics on your

websites with comments like Springvale Coal is poisoning the Sydney Water Supply and you come here today or get online and argue against the exact project you wanted built to fix this non existent problem.

While sitting and trying to come up with something to say I kept asking myself why?

WHY ARE WE HERE AGAIN FIGHTING FOR OUR JOBS AND OUR MINE, EVERYONE AT SPRINGVALE AND MOUNT PIPER KNOW ONE CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE OTHER AND IN TURN THE STATE OF NSW NEED THESE TWO BUSINESSES TO EXIST FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY.

WHY WOULD ANYONE TALK AGAINST THIS MODIFICATION, ITS A POSITIVE ITS WHAT EVERYONE WANTED.

WHY AS COAL MINERS DO WE CONTINUALLY HAVE TO DEFEND WHAT WE DO FOR A LIVING AND WHY SHOULD WE BE A LITTLE HESITANT IN SOME CIRCLES OF ADMITTING THAT WE ARE COAL MINERS. THE PEOPLE OF NSW SHOULD BE THANKING SPRINGVALE WORKERS FOR WORKING IN SUCH A HOSTILE ENVIROMENT TO SUPPLY COAL TO MOUNT PIPER SO YOU HAVE ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOMES SO YOU CAN GET ON YOUR COMPUTERS AND SLANDER US. I DONT THINK THESE KEY BOARD WARRIORS REALISE THAT WHEN THEY GET ON THEIR COMPUTERS AND MAKE REDICULOUS AND MOSTLY UNTRUE COMMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS THEY ARE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT A BIG MULTI NATIONAL COMPANY YOUR ACTUALLY SLANDERING ALL ~~NEARLY~~

30+ 400 HARD WORKING MEN AND WOMEN THAT WORK AT

SPRINGVALE ALL MY WORK MATES AND COLLEAGUES, SO I APOLOGISE IF I COME ACROSS A LITTLE UPSET WHEN I GET THE CHANCE TO STAND UP AND DEFEND US.

AND  
THIS ONE I CANNOT GET MY HEAD AROUND. WHY WOULD THE NSW STATE GOVERNMENT, WHEN I AM SURE THEY KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS PROJECT IS LET IT GET TO THIS STAGE, WHY CANT THEY JUST APPROVE IT. AND LET US GET ON WITH IT.

I could go on and on with questions, but I only have 10 minutes.

I will finish by stating a couple of facts, there is nothing in the world today that is as plentiful, cost effective, reliable, safe or efficient at producing base load power as coal and coal fire power stations. This is being proven around the world with countries moving away from other styles of power generation and back to coal power generation using new clean coal technology. People need to realise electricity is not just stored in power points ready to be used, but is being produced by burning coal in coal fired powered stations because at this point in time nothing else can produce electricity as good or reliably. When people realise this the better we will all be and we can forget about continually having to fight for our jobs and just get on with producing coal so Mount Piper can produce a reliable source of electricity for everyone to use.

I once again thank the commissioners for the opportunity to speak here today and hope they can make a timely decision in favour of

this modification so we feel secure in our jobs.

Thank you.