

Hi My Name is Peter Land,

I'm a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Coalminer and I have worked for Centennial for nearly 8 years. I have lived in the Morisset area for over 35 years, which is about the same time Cooranbong Colliery or Mandalong Mine, as it is known, has been open. During these years and for many years before, coalmining has been a huge part of Lake Macquarie with numerous mines surrounding us and have provided employment for thousands of people.

Mandalong Mine is the largest employer in the area, employing over 300 people directly. As we all know, this puts a large amount of money in the local economy by supplying jobs, not only to our suppliers and manufacturers but to our partners and families, being everyone from the Supermarket employee, School Teacher, Mechanic Butcher and so on. Without our jobs, it has a massive flow on affect.

Centennial also supports a lot of local sporting groups like the Macquarie Scorpions Rugby league Club and community events such as the Morisset Show, which was held last weekend being a huge success and beneficial to the local area. They are also sponsors for Meals On Wheels at Morisset and Toronto, Paddlefest and the Centennial Green Team, which has raised over \$100,000 for the Westpac Helicopter.

As silly as it may sound, Mandalong is a green mine with Centennial, in my opinion, being an environmentally responsible company. They achieve this by having strict procedures and controls in place at the mine, to minimise any impacts on the environment. Just 1 small example of this, is that all machines leaving from underground for a service or to go off site, are thoroughly cleaned underground before being allowed to come out from underground. In the past 15 years of working in the mines, I am unaware of any other mine that has done this. As for the impact of the mine on the local community, which most of my family and

friends live in, I believe is minimal to non-existent. Most of the community aren't aware of where the Mandalong mine is, even though most drive past it on their way to and from work via the freeway. They have no idea as to its whereabouts, which says a lot about the impact on the environment and community. I have 2 friends that live in Mandalong Valley and although they have issues with their homes, it is due to the white ants that have destroyed them, not subsidence. Mandalong's track record speaks for itself and I cannot see any real reason why the Mandalong's southern extension should not be approved.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me.

LAKE