[redacted]

19 May 2015

Planning and Assessment Commission

Attention: Mr Brian Gilligan, Ms Abigail Goldberg and David Johnson.

I am writing this submission supporting the Springvale Mine Extension Project SSD 5594 on behalf of the [redacted]

The [redacted] known locally as the [redacted] was established in 1887, has a membership of around 9,500 and directly employs 95 employees. Many of our Members have ties to the Coal Mining Industry and as a medium sized business the [redacted] relies heavily on the success of our local Coal Mining and ancillary Industries. Lithgow has recently seen the closure of Wallerawang Power Station, closure of Cullen Valley Mine and the moth balling of Angus place Colliery which has seen hundreds of job losses both directly and indirectly.

Our Club has recently embarked on a $6 Million Dollar upgrade program which includes the building of a 38 room motel and significant internal refurbishments due for completion at years end. We believe in the future of our Club, the Lithgow community and beyond. With the threat of losing Springvale Mine on top of all the other devastating job losses within our community I genuinely fear for the ability of our business and others to remain viable in the long term therefore adding further to the already ailing employment opportunities within our region.

We are aware that many submissions of non-support for the Springvale Mine Extension project have been lodged, and I must say it is disappointing that a number of these submissions are from individuals and so called interest groups from well outside our region where a negative impact on mine closures will have minimum or no effect on them or the groups they represent. Lithgow is a region that has survived for many years with a range of heavy industry, mining and industrial companies that have been able to be competitive in the market place whilst balancing their business activities with sound environmental and compliance best practise.

With its economic impact extending far beyond the industry itself, regional coal mining in Lithgow has a fundamental role to play in driving economic growth and productivity in our broader economy. In short it means that our business and many others can continue to grow, create employment opportunities for all age demographics and importantly our youth in apprenticeships traineeships etc. A healthy local mining industry allows organisations like ours do what we do best support our community. Mining also underpins the economic strength of towns and communities in regions across NSW.For example, direct spending by the mining industry the Central West ($1 billion). North Western ($376 million), Far West ($187 million) and Northern ($181 million) regions is significant, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of GRP.

The mining industry is a complex industry with many factors influencing its success, ranging across regulatory and policy settings, infrastructure availability, skills, community perceptions, commodity prices, investor confidence and competitiveness. There is a need for a partisan approach from all stakeholders to ensure that best practise, safe, sustainable and environmentally responsible mining activities can continue at Springvale Colliery for many years to come.

We believe that the responsibility for viable and sustainable economic growth within in our region falls on Business Groups, Local Council, State and Federal Governments and our Wider Community and not on Self Interest Groups that display no connection, loyalty or care what the future means to our community. There will be hundreds of families adversely affected if our miners are not allowed to do what they do best and that is mine coal in a sustainable, safe and environmentally responsible manner.

The mining industry is fundamental to the success of the Lithgow economy and achieving a positive outcome for the Springvale Mine Extension Project would be in the best interests of our local business groups and the local community at large. We would ask that you take the future of our wider community into consideration when determining the Springvale Mine Extension Project SSD5594.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Wheeler
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