Planning Assessment Commission

Submission **Supporting** the Springvale Mine Extension

Underground coal mining is a major part of Australia's history and in particular within our community Lithgow, it has been our primary industry for employment since 1838 and believing it will be for many years to come, supplying the energy source for our country's electricity suppliers and to international markets.

One questions the objections to the Springvale Mine extension by the Colong Foundation, when you take a good look at their website they have considerable campaigns in place with objections to so many things from mining, lifestyle activities, and many other campaigns mounting. Our society is so heavily regulated when it comes to our environment, which we all agree is a good thing for our future generations, but the Colong Foundation appears more focused on stopping progress at any cost, they are misanthrope when it to our passion of outdoor activities and people generally enjoying life.

To state that in todays heavily regulated and extensively monitored environmental climate that Sydney's water source would be poisoned borders on creating an imminent fear to the masses that don't bother to research beyond the words. To also state that the extension of mining operations would cause damage to Garden of Stones where is their documented evidence to prove the claim. They have no current documented evidence to substantiate their claims the referenced information posted to their website is date back at June 2014 and May 2014

You would wonder if they have looked at the website of Centennial – Springvale Mine, communications of their operations are open and transparent they are committed to sustainable development. They have stringent environmental management plans for all facets of their operations ongoing. Coal mining is regulated under the Coal Mines Act 1992, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and other statutory authorities are complied with in the process of any extension

application, so the conduct of the Colong Foundation is questionable to the unethical propaganda they have put out with their objection to the application.

Centennial has contributed extensively to our community not only with employment and social responsibility but also in partnership with Lithgow City Council – commissioning an upgrade to the Clarence Water Transfer Scheme, the project was and is a great working relationship between the Lithgow City Council and NSW Minerals Council and Centennial Coal.

The future of our community relies on the extension of the mines operations now and for many years to come, so unsubstantiated negative comments that put the 'god all mighty fear into people' to try to stop the extension going ahead have a massive bearing on our future.

If they (those objecting) bothered to extend their travels beyond the city lights they would know that we are all very proud and conscience of our environment. As a community we have - Lithgow City Council in line with government regulations and also independently put measures in-place to ensure improvements to our environment ongoing.

We are continually told that renewable energy sources are the future and that coal as our energy source is limited, until such time as the government commits to commercially viable renewable energy sources for power generation coal is still and will stay very much a part of our economy's future.

So we say to the 'Objectors' when you turn on your lights or charge up your phones and laptops to spread the word all while you are sitting in your air conditioned office or wherever that may be also take a look around at the many other modern conveniences that we as a society expect to have at hand and think long and hard about the decision you make that impact our communities future.

COAL HARD FACT (Minerals Council NSW)

Coal bestows a lasting comparative advantage that benefits all Australians and rising world demand will persist for decades.

We have complete faith in the management of Centennial - Springvale Mine to ensuring employment of our people for the future of our community, their commitment and compliance to their environmental responsibility. The rejection of the application to extend the mine will have a devastating effect on our community not only at the face of the mine but the many supporting industries, retailers etc the follow on will have a major impact on the future of Lithgow. We have suffered significantly already with the recent closures - Angus Place Mine which employed approx 270 people some positions were absorbed at Centennials Clarence and Springvale mines, not all were fortunate to gain employment and the shutdown of Wallerawang Power Station has also contributed to the loss of close to another 100 jobs. The town has been hit hard with the loss of so many jobs; employment opportunity is negligible at present. As a consequence we have been faced with many long term productive residents many with young families leaving the area seeking employment, another unfortunate consequence of job losses is many fathers are separated from their families when they take up positions many hundreds of kilometres away, while their spouse is left to manage the family back here as their ability to just pack up and move is constrained by their family and financial commitments. It is easy to say but harder to do this puts stress on relationships. The workforce at Springvale is relatively young many committed to mortgages with young families and there are those who are close to the peak of their working life whose aim now is to put money into super for their retirement.

It is vital to all within our community that the Springvale Mine Extension is approved.

Yours faithfully

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