From: [redacted]
To: pac
Subject: Submission as an objection to proposal R031/15 - Springvale Mine Extension Project
Date: Friday, 15 May 2015 5:49:39 PM

Mr Brian Gilligan
Chair
Planning Assessment Commission
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Mr Gilligan,

Objection to proposal R031/15 - Springvale Mine Extension Project

I am most alarmed by the weak provisions for environmental protection suggestedwihc will almost guarantee irreversible damage to numerous delicate ecosystems in the region. Many species that would be affected by this proposal are endangered and their extinction would be guaranteed by this project.

I request that the Planning Assessment Commission (the PAC) recommend rejection of the extension proposal. I strongly object to the proposed extension of Springvale Mine (SSD 5594) because the proponent, Centennial Coal, has made insufficient effort to minimise associated environmental impacts. In particular, a principal stream feeding Sydney's drinking water supplies, the Coxs River, should not be further polluted by this proposal. Centennial Coal has proven itself to be an environmental bandit, and cannot be trusted with executing sufficient duty of care with regard to the natural environment.

I believe it is highly inappropriate that key matters for decision, such as the reduction for mine water pollution discharged to the Coxs River, are proposed for deferral to subordinate plans as specified in the draft consent conditions. The PAC must consider and determine the appropriate levels of environmental protection now; otherwise the benefits of a PAC's independent review processes are redundant.

The proposed Springvale mine extension will further damage the outstanding natural environment of Newnes Plateau, yet the Department of Planning and Environment's (the Department's) assessment report did not objectively consider measures that would under this proposed mine extension prevent the continuation of proponent's poor environmental record, bordering on negligence.

The Department's assessment report has not adequately considered the need to significantly reduce water pollution emitted from this mine. The Department failed to recommend conditions that would ensure the health of swamps and streams on Newnes Plateau and also minimise surface impacts associated with proposed mine infrastructure.

Past damage caused by this mine has exceeded reasonable community expectations as evidenced by a $1.45 million fine for damaging nationally endangered swamps, hundreds of pollution licence non-compliance notices and high levels of community objection over many years. Few measures are proposed in this proposal or in the draft consent conditions that address these and other key matters of environmental concern. Under this proposal there will continue to be an unacceptable level of damage to endangered ecological communities, loss of stream flows to and pollution of Carne Creek, and

completely unacceptable levels of pollution to the Coxs River with an ‘extremely large salt load of 7,500 to 13,000 tonnes’ a year.

The Department’s assessment report has apparently overlooked that Angus Place mine effluent colliery must also continue to be discharged by the Springvale mine as part of this proposal if that other mine is to remain in either a production or a care and maintenance state. The discharge of up to 43.8ML/day salt laden mine effluent is likely to kill almost all life in the Coxs River downstream to the stored waters of Lake Burragorang. This will have significant flow-on effect on other ecosystems, not just those within the geographical confines of the project area, potentially resulting in the elimination of various whole populations.

Further, the Department’s draft consent conditions did not require the proposed duplication of the mine effluent transfer pipeline to follow the existing pipeline alignment. The proposed pipeline and road would instead unnecessarily bisect two endangered ecological forest communities. This new pipeline must be required to follow the existing pipeline alignment to prevent unnecessary damage into the highly scenic and ecologically important Gardens of Stone region.

Thank you for considering this submission as an objection to the Springvale Mine Extension Project.

Yours sincerely,

Gretchen Keelty
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