From: [redacted]
To: pac
Subject: Support for Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)
Date: Monday, 18 May 2015 8:30:58 PM

Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)

I respectfully submit the following submission to support the Springvale Mine Extension Project submitted by Centennial coal.
Lithgow has always been a Coal Mining Town and as such has provided employment and also a source of fuel for base load Power Generation. Export of Coal has always had positive effect on the Australian Economy balance of trade.

Of late the Lithgow economy has been severely affected by job losses at Baal Bone & Angus Place Collieries and also within the Electricity Generation industry. This has negative effects on Lithgow's economy and surrounding areas. Business confidence is affected through to reduction in class numbers in schools due to people having to leave the area to look for employment.

I have first hand experience in what the closure of a mine does to a person and their family as I am soon to be retrenched from Angus Place after 34 years of employment as the care and maint regime is implemented and join over 70 of my former workmates who have already finished in the difficult task of gaining new employment in the district, commuting to other centres of work or relocating our families.

Like many of my former workmates I have been applying for other jobs in the district without success as the jobs are just not there. I am seeing families move out of the district to secure work or family units being destroyed by husbands making the hard decision to leave the family in the Lithgow district whilst they drive in / drive out or fly in / fly out as far afield as north QLD. We here in Lithgow have steadily been seeing our children in increasing numbers move out of the district to gain employment and leaving their friends and family behind as there are just not enough jobs available, denying centennial coals springvale application will only exacerbate this jobs shortage and cause a huge rift in the social fabric of Lithgow and the surrounding communities.

Environmentally as a employee at centennial coal I have seen how serious the company takes their responsibilities to the environment and their license conditions through their procedures, monitoring and instruction / enforcement with the workforce.

In closing I state my support for centennial coals springvale extension proposal to avoid this community being ripped apart and the current employees having to face the same decision as me in whether or not to move away or take on ajob that will break up the family unit for 75% of the year. I wish them every success

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Yours faithfully

Graeme Patterson

May 18th 2015

[redacted]

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