

Springvale Mine Extension Project
Review.

Planning Assessment Commission

27/05/2015

Lithgow Workman's Club.

██████████ submission as an objection
to proposal for Mining Extension Project
- R031/15.

Speaker: Jack Roxborough

Notes



A community based network working to promote action on climate change + environmental protection in the Central West of NSW.

Specifically to encourage the adoption of renewable energy technologies on both an individual and collective basis throughout the central west of NSW.

Note:

#Ref. to Don Watson (2015 NSW Premier's Literary Award winner book 'The Bush')

In the book Don Watson states it is time to turn things around. We have spent 200 years destroying the bush. In his words "we have buggered it up".

It's now time to reverse this process.

Personally

I come from coal mining families. My mother's brother all worked in Lithgow mines. One tragically died here in a mining accident. All suffered respiratory conditions - no doubt due to working underground.

On my father's side, as a child he experienced the Stanley Mine Disaster in Durham^{UK} (the village where he lived), which resulted in the death of 163 miners, a devastating this community for generations.

Also my father worked underground in Durham & The Hunter in NSW.

I wish to establish that I am not unaware of the Lithgow community & the coal mining community.

Today's conditions for workers are excellent but coal mining continues to have a severe negative impact on the environment.

I have seen first hand the:

- a) Cracking of the surface of the Newnes Plateau (cracks that my whole body could fit into).
- b) Collapses of the cliff walls in the valleys of the Garden of Stones and,
- c) Draining of the unique high plateau swamps of the Newnes Plateau.

In a NUTSHELL

[redacted] submission directly addresses the environmental impact of the Springvale mine extension.

Therefore if mining is to proceed there must be:

- No ground cracking,
- No collapses of cliffs into the Garden of Stones;
- No drainage of surface water from swamps
- No pollution of streams & waterways.

(Personally, I cannot see how mining this area would not cause the above from happening).

Economy.

Under the current world wide policies on CO₂ reduction and the success of low emission and renewable energy technologies, dependence on coal as an energy source is declining rapidly.

The question is, will there be a market for more coal and would this extension of Springvale mine be economically viable?

Ref. SMH 26.5.2015. Peter Harcher: Green power takes wind out of Abbott

"AGL, Australia's biggest electricity generator last month, announced it would decarbonise by 2050, and ramp up its renewable energy plans."

Finally.

I appeal to the Planning Assessment Commission to consider carefully, the health aspects stemming from possible water contamination of water supply, and the severe impact that mining has on this magnificent local environment.

As Don Watson has stated in his book 'The Bush', we have devastated the bush for 200 years.

Let's reverse this process here and not encroach any further on the Garden of Stones & the Nurnes Plateau, but set out to repair the damage already done.