

Greg Currie

**Airly Mine Extension Project – Lithgow Local Government Area**

**Reference Number: R033-15**

I thank the Commissioners and community members for the opportunity to voice my opinions on the Airly Mine Extension Project. I am Greg Currie and I support Centennial Coals Airly extension proposal.

I have been a resident of [REDACTED] all of my life. When I left School in the 70's the area was booming. The immediate local area had 2 cement works, 2 Collierys, engineering and construction businesses, a large power supply authority depot and an operational rail network for both passenger and goods services. The main streets of Rylstone and Kandos were brimming with business.

With the recent closure of the cement works, Charbon colliery, and Big Rim open cut – they are all gone, the community is struggling. Families are disrupted either having to relocate to find employment or the breadwinners having to live away from their families or travel inordinate distances to work. These closures have placed huge stresses on the local businesses, schools, hospitals, sporting and community clubs.

Of the 64 people currently employed at Airly approximately 40 are from Rylstone or Kandos. If the proposed extension to Airly is not approved the effect on our small community will be devastating.

I am an employee of [REDACTED] at Airly and have been employed in the underground mining industry for 39 years. I have worked at 4 different pits and have noticed huge changes during this time. The most obvious being the improvements to safety and environmental impact. Safety and environmental impact are now the major considerations in mining.

Airly is a relatively new pit and has been constructed to minimise environmental impact, the proposed extension has also been designed with environmental considerations.

Finally, I hope for the sake of the 64 employees and our communities, after due consideration is given to the minimal environmental impact Airly extension will have, that you grant Centennial Coals application for extension at Airly.