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24 September 2015

RECEIVED
29 SEP 2015
BY:

NSW Planning Assessment Commission
GPO Box 3415
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Johanna Lee

Re: Letter of Support for Airly Mine Extension Project

Dear Johanna,

As a business we have been an interested party to the application by Centennial Coal for the Airly Mine Extension. Obviously there is a clear balance between meeting the broad needs of the community and the ability to take longer term views on the sustainability of our environment and those that provide positive economic benefits. We appreciate and understand the complexity of the decision making process but we would like to provide some input into the decision making process.

[redacted] has a firm belief that Centennial Coal has designed the Project to contain best practices around a sustainable model to manage the environmental risks and impacts and as a result will remain within Government guidelines for health and amenity. We have a great deal of confidence and trust in Centennial Coal, as they have proven to be a responsible developer, operator and active member of the community in both the Lithgow and Hunter Regions as history shows.

Centennial Coal has been operating and expanding their business in the local area for many years contributing greatly to the local economy. The opportunity they provide as a large employer for training and jobs for young people and security for families cannot be understated.

The express intent of this written submission is not to take away from the important focus on ensuring we have a sustainable and protected environment, which future generations will take advantage of, but to more point out that the balance of the discussion should also be on those elements that sustain communities, which is economic success of businesses.

We believe Centennial has that balance of ensuring environment focus and compliance, whilst also providing significant economic benefit to both its employees, contractors and their sub-contractors/suppliers and the communities.

employs over 200 people and a significant portion of our business is in direct support of the Centennial Group and importantly Springvale and Airly. The current position of stand downs has had a direct effect on the turnover of our business, which we suspect is replicated by numerous other companies who have a direct link to the Mining and Resource sector.

Obviously we have suppliers to , who equally are seeing reductions in demand on products and services, it has a knock on effect. Further delays and potential rejection of the application are and will have a direct impact on employment levels within our business and as such effect the health of local communities both locally within Lithgow and through the ripple effect, other communities.

The coal industry has historically made a significant contribution to the economic development of Lithgow, Hunter, NSW and Australia. Approval of the Airly Mine Extension continues that history and allows us to accommodate future growth in coals resource demand.

We request that a balance be applied to the social and economic impacts on the communities within the Lithgow region and even those further away such as Newcastle, when balancing and considering the overall merits of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Derek Hird