Planning Assessment Commission

[redacted]

28 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Notice of Review and Public Hearing
Airly Mine Extension Project
Lithgow Local Government Area

The Minister for Planning, pursuant to Section 23D of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, has directed the Planning Assessment Commission to review the application for the **Airly Mine Extension Project**, and hold a public hearing during the review.

The Commission comprises:

- Robyn Kruk AM (chair);
- Alan Coutts; and
- David Johnson..

The terms of reference for the Commission are:

1. Carry out a review of the Airly Mine Extension Project, and:
   a) Consider the environmental impact statement for the project, the issues raised in submissions, the Commonwealth Independent Expert Scientific Committee's advice, the additional information and response to submissions provided by Centennial Coal, the Department of Planning and Environment's preliminary environmental assessment report, and any other relevant information provided on the project during the review;
   b) Assess the merits of the project as a whole having regard to all relevant NSW Government policies and paying particular attention to it's potential:
      - subsidence impacts on the natural values of the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area including cliff lines, steep slopes, pagodas and gorges, and any threatened species or endangered ecological communities;
      - water impacts, including any downstream water quality impacts in the Gardens of Stone National Park; and
      - social and economic impacts; and if necessary,
   c) recommend further measures to avoid, minimise, and/or manage the potential impacts of the project.

2. Conduct public hearings during the review.

3. Submit its final report on the review to the Department of Planning and Environment within 10 weeks of receiving the Department's preliminary environmental assessment of the project, unless the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment agrees otherwise.

The Ministerial Direction and other documents related to this application including the DP&E preliminary assessment report are available on the Commission's website (www.pac.nsw.gov.au reference number R033-15) and the DP&E website (www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

Public Hearings

As directed by the Minister, a public hearing will be held on the project. The hearing will commence at **3:00pm, on Wednesday, 23 September 2015 at the Union Theatre, 63-65 Bridge Street, Lithgow NSW 2790.** The hearing will be open to the public. If you wish to speak at the hearing you must register beforehand

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COMMISSION SECRETARIAT
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[redacted]

HUNTER MINING METHODS

Monday 21st September 2015

Dear Sirs,

We are writing to you today with our concerns regarding the Review of the extension for mining at Airly Coal Mine.

Our business is located in the Lithgow/Wallerawang local government area, 20min from the Airly coal mine. We deal with all the local coal mines along with most national coal mines.

The concern we have with the objection of this project going forward is the immediate reaction within the local area towards our economy. The loss of jobs, the morel in the town, and the support that this industry has for local business's, the community and community projects and also sporting bodies, both senior and junior.

As a local business who rely on the operations of the mining industry, we will also suffer due to the loss of work from this project not going ahead, which in turn will result in a down turn with our business which leads to termination of employment.

During this last few months there has been other submissions for the extension of mining projects for Centennial coals Springvale coal mine. We have been in support this extension to go ahead also, and have been pleased to hear this has been passed by the PAC committee, and hope that this latest hearing for Airly will have the same outcome.

All our employees are from the local area with young families, and we hope to be able to sustain employment for these workers by having the local mining industry supported.

David Hunter

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D Hunter