

Good afternoon, my name is Robert Cluff, I am a local businessman from [REDACTED] in Wallerawang and a member of the Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association, may I repeat "Progress" and this is what we are here for today to get our town progressing.

20 years ago my wife and I started a family business now known as [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Wallerawang.

Over the years the business has grown from one employee to 25, this was 6 months ago, today it employees 19.

The reasons behind this decline in employment are purely demand.

The Wallerawang Power Station closed, then the Angus Place Colliery, both a major hit like never before in our community.

As a small country town which has a lot of small businesses operated by local families & employing local people that are suffering due to these closures.

I believe there should be a balance in tourism & industry to make our local area expand and grow. We have to consider that tourists generally travel on the weekend. This means that the predicted growth in

tourism will not replace the local coal mine and power station workers we all relied on during the week.

In addition to this, Tourism does not help the 40 other businesses in Wallerawang that employ the many flow on employees at other business that are not involved in Tourism e.g. the plant hire, engineering businesses, mechanics and even our local schools and pre-schools. This is just Wallerawang alone - look further afield the whole of the Lithgow & Portland areas need more than the tourism industry to survive. I would like to plead with those that feel this is the answer to our area to be realistic and take off the rose coloured glasses; **we need industry in our area to survive.**

Regulations of today in all forms have come a long way from the way we built buildings, workplace rules, and mostly the way we mine.

I would urge those against this application to take a long hard look at what we do and how we do things today not 15 years ago, maybe photos of today not 15 years ago also would be more appropriate on websites and social media.

Saying all this I am sure that the Planning & Assessment Commission making the decision on this

application are well informed of what is done today not yesterday's practices.

In closing Lithgow, Wallerawang & Portland areas need this application to be approved for our survival as a community.

I am sure that we would all agree that the expectations of a modern organisation today, are that they will operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

We would expect nothing less of Centennial Coal for example.

Should this socially responsible expectation not also apply to special interest groups, or are they allowed to operate above these laws?

Socially responsible to me means telling the truth, being honest with the public, the best outcome for all, not just a single agenda. If the special interest groups are SO socially responsible, why do they feel the need to use photos of damage to the environment, which is either not from this area or from many years ago when mining practices were very different, so the photos are completely irrelevant. If these special interest groups are SO socially responsible, why would they not try and engage with Centennial and use science, engineering

and respectful dialog to achieve some understanding, rather than a fear campaign that was unintelligent, irresponsible and disrespectful to their community and the roots of this country. The fact special interest groups resorted to untruthful tactics, can only suggest that the truth was damaging to their campaign.

Should this socially responsible expectation not also apply to our government departments and agencies employed by our tax's too.

It is socially unacceptable that our politicians, our government, our agencies and this very process have let this town, this state and this country down. All involved in this process have a social responsibility to ensure this process is managed professionally, on time with minimal impact to the community, the company and again our country.

The NSW and Australian Government along with the various agencies that regulate should be encouraging business in NSW and helping them to comply. Their job should not be to just throw road blocks, red tape and more steps in a process.

How can we ever expect new investment to be attracted to this area, state or Country, if we continually change the goal posts and retrospectively

allow new changes to be applied to a project particularly if that project is almost approved? Can you imagine building a house this way, or signing a contract where one party can change the rules with absolutely no consequences?

And there is a very good point; there are no consequences to the individuals who have held up this project.

The most unfortunate fact in this sad story is that the individuals who have had nothing to do with the process or the decision making are the worst affected. The workers stood down at Springvale, their families and the local business's in the Lithgow, Wallerawang and Portland Area. The bureaucrats, the politicians, those who want the mine to shut, none of you have to worry about your mortgage repayments, the fact you won't be going on holidays for several years, or the fact the business you have sunk all your life into has gone, because the town you grew up in and raised your children in no longer exists.

There is no consequence for poor decisions, lack of decisions, interruptions, goal post changing fence sitting and spreading deception