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29 August 2015

Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)

I FULLY SUPPORT THE SPRINGVALE MINE EXTENSION

Well here we are again!

I cannot believe that I am required to make a submission in respect of the Springvale Mine Expansion YET AGAIN.

I cannot believe that my 20 year old son has now stood down from his job (and his apprenticeship) while we go through this process YET AGAIN.

I cannot believe that my husband will commence being stood down in a matter of weeks while we go through this process YET AGAIN.

I cannot believe that my nephew had to pack up his life and leave his family behind two weeks ago to work in Queensland because his coal mining job has disappeared while we go through this process YET AGAIN.

As you would no doubt be aware, our district has been severely affected by job losses in the coal mining and electricity industries in recent times. We can all understand that when companies make financial decisions to close their business, there is very little that we can do to change it. But when jobs are threatened by government policy (and retrospective policy at that), I am unwilling to sit back and do nothing.

I am not going to dwell on the arguments put forward by those who claim to have an interest in the result of this PAC except to say that I take exception to the input of people who DO NOT live in this community. WE live here…they don't. WE raise our families here…they don't. WE spend our wages here…they don't.

As I have previously stated in my Submission dated 20 May 2015, to suggest that the Lithgow community does not care about the environment is an insult. We are all too well aware that we need to take care of our environment to enable the long term sustainability of the mining industry in our area. Centennial Coal have an excellent reputation in the district for their regeneration of old and existing mine sites. This community would not just stand idly by and let someone ruin our beautiful mountains and gullies. The local mining companies have respected that and have been mindful of the environment in and around their mine sites.

I ask that when making a final determination on the Springvale Extension that you take into account:

- Springvale currently employees over 300 direct workers and numerous contract workers. *My family currently has three members working directly in the local mining industry; my husband, my son and my brother.*

- Small businesses have been established to support the Mine sites around the Lithgow area and without the Mines these jobs will also be lost. *It is not just mine associated jobs that are at risk, I have a number of friends who are small business owners who will struggle to keep their doors open.*

- The mining community within our region have been extremely generous over the last 20 years donating more than $1,000,000.00. Without the approvals Lithgow will no longer receive these benefits. *On a personal note, the loss of my husband's job will mean that we will no longer be able to afford to donate to our personal charity of choice, as well as to the projects supported through the coal workers' charitable programs to the community.*

- Springvale has a strong history of creating wonderful opportunities for the youth of Lithgow to develop skills in trade roles. *Again, on a personal note, my son is currently a third year electrical apprentice at Springvale Colliery (and who was employed at Angus Place Colliery until that mine was reduced to maintenance staff only). You can only begin to imagine the stress that this is placing him under.*

- Over 200 workers at Springvale have been stood down due to the approvals being delayed.

- The current stand-down has placed more pressure on the families of Springvale and without the approvals the flow on affect will render Lithgow a 'ghost' town.

- Springvale directly supplies coal to Mount Piper Power Station which in turn supplies 15% of NSW total energy needs. Mount Piper is one of the newest and most efficient power stations in NSW. The coal supply is currently rated as being at '*alarm*' status at Mount Piper with an estimated window of 8-10 weeks until generation is likely to cease placing more jobs at risk in the community. *Simple really…if you don't support coal then turn off your electricity.*

I again ask that when you are making your decision in respect of the Springvale expansion (which affects me, my family and my community…but does not affect your future!), that you take on board the concerns of the people who live, work, spend and vote here.

Thank you again Commissioners for taking the time to look into my concerns and I hope that for the community of Lithgow a speedy resolution is seen.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Sue Glasson