From: [redacted]
To: pac pac
Subject: Re: Springvale Mine Extension Project Second Review
Date: Friday, 28 August 2015 10:51:26 PM

RE: Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)

As a lifetime resident of [redacted], local primary school teacher and wife and mother of employees of Centennial Coal, I wish to once again submit my support for the Springvale Mine Extension Project. The second review has meant that my husband, along with his fellow workers, has been forced to take leave while he awaits an uncertain future.

If the extension project does not receive approval it will mean that in excess of 300 direct jobs will be lost in our community. This, combined with the recent closures of Angus Place Colliery and the Wallerawang Power Station, will obviously have a significantly detrimental effect on Lithgow's economy, impacting on the viability of many local businesses. Obviously Lithgow will not be able to absorb so many unemployed into other jobs and therefore many will have to uproot their families or leave them behind to seek employment elsewhere.

It is of considerable concern that outside interests (who don't have full understanding of the actual environmental protection and rehabilitation measures being taken by the local coal industry) are lobbying against mining with no regard for the impact this will have on the people in our community. Of course the mining families in our community enjoy and wish to preserve the beautiful environment of our region; it is our back yard after all. Our community understands the necessity of achieving a balance between maintaining a viable industry and protecting our environment now and into the future.

There will be numerous social impacts on the Lithgow community if Springvale cannot continue its operation. Our community will lose the support provided to local charities, volunteer organisations, sporting bodies and schools by yet another major local industry and its employees. Such support is vital in a community which has a considerable population with low socio-economic status. Our demographic will change dramatically as families and/or family members are forced to move away for employment. This inevitable population decline will contribute to reductions in residential property values, the likelihood of schools losing teaching staff and pressure on local volunteer organisations which will most likely lose some of their volunteers along with the financial support currently provided by the mine.

If ultimately Lithgow's future cannot rely on mining, then it is incumbent on the government and the industry (both of which have benefitted greatly from the efforts and risks taken by mining employees) to take socially responsible measures which will help facilitate a transition into new opportunities. At present these opportunities are not evident and the population of Lithgow does not deserve to pay the high price it will, if the Springvale extension is not approved.

Yours faithfully,

Susan Dick

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