Mr Clay Preshaw

Commission Secretariat

Lot 13, 301 George Street

SYDNEY, NSW 2000

Dear Mr Preshaw,

Submission as an approval to proposal R031/15 – Springvale Mine Extension Project.

We want to express our concern at the further delay in the Springvale Mine Extension Project. This has become very frustrating for many people and has flow on effects which need to be considered. The proponent, Centennial Coal, has always made every effort to minimise associated environmental impacts on all waterways and land in our district. Coal mining in this area has been conducted safely and in unison with the environment for many years and it is our belief that this will continue. Related measures will be undertaken by the company to ensure that this will be given an even higher priority into the future.

As local citizens, we have seen firsthand the flow-on effect of job losses in the mining industry. These job losses have been devastating for our local economy and families have been forced to leave the area. This, in turn, has crippled local businesses. The proposed Springvale mine extension will help to bring some much needed job security for desperate families and will also help to boost a struggling economy. There is a general reluctance for larger companies to establish themselves in our district with so much financial uncertainty. Our local council as well as people who enjoy this locality find the future a concern.

As in our previous correspondence, the following points need to be taken into consideration:

- Springvale is an underground mine, not open cut and will have minimal impact on the landscape and the aesthetic value of the environment.
- The mining is undertaken by responsible well-trained personnel who have the utmost respect for the surrounds of the Lithgow area. Many of these have family generations old.
- The water output from the mine (raised as a problem issue) will be controlled environmentally as per the EIS, (settling ponds, etc) plus, a well-credentialed Environmental Officer will be onsite at all times and will be in communication with EPA officials as all times.
- This mining submission and the EIS are well prepared and all issues will be covered and acceptable as part of the Government and Environmental requirements.

The stand down and delays in the approvals process and the ultimate closure of the mine if this is the end result, will have an impact on all sectors of the community:

- There will be a loss of confidence in the job prospects of this area and there will be retrenchments.

- People will have to leave Lithgow and surrounding townships, many of whom are actively caring for elderly parents or grandparents.
- Numbers at all the local schools will drop dramatically and this will have a flow on effect with staffing in schools suffering and loss of numbers employed in education. Losing good teachers has a serious effect on the young people of our country. We can only imagine the future with more problems arising in society.
- Miners also have spouses who are employed in other sectors, such as education, local government, administration, medicine, to name a few. With employment moves these sectors would also be affected.
- From our assessments the numbers of students would drop by up to 40% in small schools in this area and the Government would have to seriously think about their viability.
- As mentioned earlier the closure of businesses, particularly those engineering firms linked to the mining industry could cause a further loss of employment.
- Friends will move on and marriages will be under stress due to financial problems.
- Family planning for young couples will have to be put on hold or forgotten completely.
- Delinquent loans will become the norm for all local institutions.

As a couple who have enjoyed living in the Lithgow area for most of our lives, we want to see a positive climate for the future. A great place to live, wonderful people, hardworking and with a genuine love for the family and the place they live. Please take the time to give our views a great deal of thought.

Thankyou for your consideration of our letter.

Malcolm Kearns – retired PowerStation Project Manager – 44 years 10 months in the Power Generation Industry. During employment Apprentice Electrician, Electrician, Foreman, Apprentice Training Supervisor, Team Leader, Project Planner and Project Manager.

Susan Kearns – School Principal of [redacted] – 15 years as Principal / Teacher – caring for and educating children in the Lithgow district for over 35 years

Yours Sincerely,

Malcolm Kearns (Retiree)

Susan Kearns (School Principal)