From: [redacted]
To: pac pac
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Springvale Mine Extension objection submission by Stephen Ives
Date: Monday, 31 August 2015 9:44:34 PM

Monday, 31 August 2015

Dear Minister for Planning (Honourable Mr. Robert Stokes),

After hearing the proposal of Springvale extension project was being reviewed by a hearing, held in Lithgow NSW tomorrow at 1pm, I myself strongly object to the coal mine's approval.

I feel coal mining is a past industry with a lousy track record of polluting not only the surrounding air from burning coal, but also ingested into living creature's lungs and is a hazard to the environment in a volatile dust form, as well. Some of this soot ending up downstream in our catchment areas or finally out at sea to be consumed in our food chain. Putting both environment and public safety at risk!

I have been in a fortunate position as a draughtsman and an engineer in some of the prominent coal industry projects around Australia and overseas in and out of my 30 plus years career to give a good appraisal of rejecting this approval.

I do not have a problem with progress in any industry providing all sides of an issue is factored in and put on the table for discussion.

True coal mining does provide local jobs to the area. This I agree with! But if this is the main reason or argument the miners are fiercely defendant of their mining job. This does not stack up with me! During my life at work I have had to adapt to change and to train and be trained many times over to stay relevant and up to date with my job qualifications, skills and knowledge to be a competitive worker. So too can these miners morph their trades into what I consider a safer, less hazardous, more hygienic and better health wise industry as renewable energy. More so than coal would ever be! That is providing adequate training and job opportunities arise from this, to convert these miners to the renewable sector.

Too my mind coal is so last century! That is just because we have ample supplies of it does not mean we should exploit it. The run off of coal deposits as pollutant effluent into river streams I have witnessed first hand from bushwalking into the Wollangambe River and its like near coal mining regions are vast. Even the Gardens of Stone National Park has been irrefutably damaged due to long wall mining beneath its rock structures. If I were to cause similar damage and pollution to this land I would be locked up and jailed for my crimes. If this is the case, can I make a class action against the government for causing the approval of Springvale Coal to damage my beautiful country and also my health? Due to lasting conditions coal dust, its smoke or pollution that enters the air caused by coal mining activities. Coal is renowned to being a carcinogenic product especially in powder form (dust). With coal comes increased air pollution and health risks like smoking. Which in turn increase our medical costs to combat this issue. So am I expected to pay more for medical expenses due to a bad product that should otherwise stay in the ground? I feel if this is the case this is bad government job creation policy and practice. As our government needs to show duty of health and care to its citizens! Yes?

If coal mining in Australia was diligent, safe to work with, non hazardous and caring to this land and its people I think they would have a reasonable case to answer. However, too often I have witnessed coal deposits leaking into our streams and waterway polluting their surroundings and damaging aquifers from long wall subsidence. This to me is not a smart Australia! The environment and people caring for it must have a voice over polluting products like coal. Plenty of energy alternatives are available like in the renewable industry. Such as wind turbines, solar farms and hydro generation to name a few. In today's world they are feasible, cleaner to provide

us with a base load power and freely available on par with cost of producing coal.

Kindest Regards,

Stephen Ives

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