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LETTER TO PLANNING ASSESSMENT COMMISSION

SPRINGVALE MINE EXTENSION PROJECT

01/09/2015

Clay Preshaw
NSW Planning Assessment Commission
GPO Box 654
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir

I write to the commission on behalf of the [redacted] of Directors and Members in total support of the Springvale Mine Extension Project going ahead.

[redacted] Is a 'Limited' company that is non for profit. The sole purpose of the existence of the club is to be a viable, financially stable business that gives back to the community.

The club has for many years provided financial support to a number of local community and sporting organisations that rely heavily on that support to provide services, equipment, team apparel etc. Here are the organisations that last year the club donated in over $40,000 in total to:

- Lithgow City Rangers Soccer Club
- Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association
- Celebrate Lithgow/Tour De Range
- Lidsdale Lions Cricket Club
- Wallerawang Public School
- Wallerawang Junior Rugby League
- Wallerawang Baseball Raptors/Isotopes Teams
- Wallerawang Netball Team – That's Amazing
- Wallerawang Junior Soccer
- Mu Yeh Taekwondo
- Individual sponsorship of athletes and teams who have represented at various levels

In a town of 3000 people the club along with other businesses within Wallerawang rely heavily on the mining industry to provide employment which of course the businesses see a financial flow on from that employment. The same can be said for the Greater Lithgow area including townships like Portland, Cullen Bullen, Lidsdale and Hartley who all benefit from the mining industry and will rely on that industry to survive in this area for many years to come.

With Centennials decision to place Angus Place Colliery on 'care and maintenance' only in March, we have seen Bar Sales at the club drop from $212,257 in June YTD 2014 to $191,936 in June YTD 2015. That is a reduction in sales of 18.34%. Not to mention our other revenue streams like Poker Machine revenue reduced by 21.58% in the same period. This can be directly attributed to the closure and re-deployment of employees from Angus Place & the reduction of energy output from only one unit at Mount Piper Power Station. That trend looks to be continuing into the new financial year and with at least 6 week layoff of employees from Springvale being detrimental to our bottom line.

If the planned Springvale extension doesn't go ahead, this will heap more pressure on our organisation which will in turn effect the organisations within the town that we financially support. It will also place pressure on the employment of 12 persons who currently work at the club and the board would certainly have to review its structure and possibly look at moving towards going to full voluntary labour.

Then there are the long term effects on the community. When townships the size of Wallerawang lose major industry involvement it leads to individuals having to move away to gain employment. This in-turn places enormous strain on the housing market where you have an exorbitant amount of houses for sale, but no buyers due to lack of employment opportunities. The flow on effects of not going through with the planned expansion would be devastating to the whole greater Lithgow area and catastrophic to its townships and businesses that rely on the mining industry.

There is also a flow on effect towards the other businesses and contractor companies that provide niche services to the Springvale Mine and failure of the planned expansion would result on those contractor groups to review their employment structures and further possible cuts to jobs to local people.

The benefits that would come if the expansion was approved would allow our community to thrive through a very difficult financial climate and would ensure the employment of 345 people. This will generate consumer confidence again and rejuvenate all businesses in Wallerawang.

It cannot be understated just how important the mining industry and this particular expansion of the Springvale Mine is to the Wallerawang community. Wallerawang and its people have always remained resilient through tough economic times. However rejection of the Springvale Mine Extension Project would turn a resilient township into a possible 'ghost town'.

Yours Faithfully

Stephen Jackson