The Committee of the
Planning Assessment Commission
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SYDNEY NSW 2001

pac@pac.nsw.gov.au

28th August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)

I request that the Planning Assessment Commission (Hearing Number 2) recommend the above consent for immediate approval. I **strongly approve** of the proposed extension of Springvale Mine (SSD 5594).

This is now the second PAC hearing which I believe is totally unnecessary, as there will be very little if any new information that can brought in especially after the first PAC had recommended approval with conditions. Centennial Springvale has answered those questions and also agreed to the conditions that PAC had concerns with. Surely this second meeting will expedite a positive outcome through PAC and then through the various Government departments as soon as possible so the workers that are currently on stand down can return to work sooner rather than later.

Lithgow's FUTURE is depending on the support of Springvale Centennial Coal's submission, in my opinion this should never be decided by people who have never visited the town or our area and in some cases have never even visited our state or country!!! They are choosing to disagree just on sensational and un-factual headlines by groups NOT IN SUPPORT of this extension. In the majority of cases these "objectors" have NEVER told the two sides of the story!!

I truly do wish that these people could see through our eyes, -the eyes of the Lithgow people-, what damage is currently being caused by the games environmental supporters and their sites are playing with actual human lives!! Believe it or not, Lithgow is so very more aware than anyone will ever realise and understand, of the extent we respect the co-existence of the environment and coal mining. We have been doing it for decades and decades!! **To be honest there will always be room for improvement and the PAC has already done this, Centennial Springvale have done this, but these groups will never except this!** They believe that an established mine of 20 years can and should not be allowed to operate under any circumstances!

Our coal mines are under the toughest safety guide lines than ever before, but the mines take safety in ALL areas very seriously. They have been in Lithgow and its surrounding areas for over 100 years!!

The proposed Springvale mine extension will also bring much needed job security to the district and the businesses conducted here. The district cannot afford another 1000 + direct and indirect job losses. It will also restore the confidence in all of Lithgow people as pockets close on spending whenever there is trouble within the area of possible job losses and closure of major industries.

Springvale Colliery and its workers are held in high esteem by locals for many reasons, first and foremost is the contribution they make to the economy of Lithgow, but also Centennial Coal and past mining companies have continually donated, sponsored, assisted, and purchase millions of dollars to so much of the community and surrounding areas.

If a full count on a total amount of monies giving to local charity groups, Lithgow's Public and Lithgow Community Private Hospital, Tanderra Nursing Home, Cooinda Nursing Home, local schools, Lithgow sporting associations, families in need etc etc, the total would be millions of $$$$ given to support our diverse town!

I have family that attend local schools and kids that participate in the many weekend leisure activities that Lithgow offers. My family is passionate about Lithgow and its surrounds. We love and respect all of what Lithgow has to offer and I strongly believe that Centennial Coal has dealt with all issues to safely run the mine with no detriment to any one or anywhere.

If this proposal does not get its approval how can these workers support their family? How are kids going to feel when they are ripped from the school and friends that they love, so the parents can find work elsewhere.?!

AND I do mean **elsewhere,** as how can Lithgow find 300 jobs plus the fallout job losses that follow of more than double that. Lithgow will be left a ghost town!!!

Lithgow as a whole will suffer tremendously if this submission is not granted, the fallout effect will see many husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, grandfathers and sons and daughters losing jobs. Jobs lost will be not just from the coal mines, but from other businesses in a flow on affect. This in turn will start to have a domino effect in school placement withdrawals, (considering children will be pulled out of school to relocate for the parents to find employment outside the town), also hospital and Doctor Services reduction, retail sector and so on.

Many, if not all businesses in the area will directly and indirectly be affected as there will be no confidence to spend money, if we do not have some sort of future in our local industries. It is scary enough raising our kids with the knowledge that employment opportunities are few and far between, and if kids do not have Universities aspirations what future will be here for them in a trade sector. As the whole town feels the flow on affect, small businesses will also feel the pinch and more doors will close. The flow on effect is insurmountable!! Lithgow CANNOT afford to lose 300 jobs directly and another 1000 indirectly.

If Approval is <u>not</u> given, without our mining industry like Centennial Coal, the power stations, and the other specialised industry's contracting directly to Centennial will almost instantly disappear..

I truly believe that Lithgow depends on this submission being approved!!

Please take into consideration the following issues that I have summarized when making a final determination on the Springvale Extension:

- Springvale currently employees over 300 direct workers
- Numerous contract work is carried out directly on site
- Small business have been established to support the Mine sites around the Lithgow area and without the Mines these jobs will also be lost
- The mining community within our region have been extremely generous over the last 20 years donating more than $1,000,000. Without the approvals Lithgow will no longer receive these benefits.
- Springvale has a strong history of creating wonderful opportunities for the youth of Lithgow to develop skills in trade roles
- 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 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.

Thank you for considering this submission **<u>as an approval to the Springvale Mine Extension Project.</u>**

Yours Truly,

[redacted] Signature

Shannon Dawson Name

[redacted] Address

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