Mining and Industry Projects
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure
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SPRINGVALE MINE EXTENSION PROJECT (SSD 5594)

I respectfully submit the following submission **to SUPPORT** the Springvale Mine Extension Project submitted by Centennial Coal.

I would ask that you consider the following points when considering the above submission for the Springvale Mine Extension:

- Springvale Coalmine employs over 300 direct workers who reside in and around the district of Lithgow.
- Many of these workers have families and children who attend local schools in the district. If these workers are forced to leave the district with their families then we lose children as well. Loss of children to schools means loss of teachers, meaning financial loss to the local economy. It also means loss of **future** workers and families to Lithgow.
- Presently 200 workers have been stood down while the Mine is awaiting news of the submission.
- Many of these families are now unable to spend school holidays together and are cancelling holidays due to lack of funds and the stand down process happening during the school term. This leads to emotional stress on families as parents see their children suffer.
- Lithgow is a small town with a big history. We are the site of the first Steel Works in Australia. We are a town built on industry. We cannot afford to have this still working industry of coal mining come to an end, especially because we are an established coal mining town not a NEW area and Springvale supplies the coal needed to work the Mount Piper Power Station which in turn supplies **15% of the power to NSW**.
- The current supply of coal to Mount Piper is running dangerously low and if this supply is not increased in the coming weeks then we could be looking at stand downs from the power industry. This will lead to more financial loss to the Lithgow area.
- I am the daughter of a retired Coal Miner and the wife of a coal miner (not Springvale). My situation is not unique in the town. Many of my friends are lifelong residents of Lithgow are also daughters, wives, sisters and mothers of coal miners. I do not want to see families have to leave the area to find work. This again will lead to loss of services and small business in the community but also an emotional loss as families have to move away.
- While Lithgow does not have major department stores like big cities, we do have a range of small business and specialty shops who rely on the locals to keep their businesses running. During a recent visit to one local dress shop the owner and I

were discussing how quiet business was and that it could only be attributed to the uncertainty of the Springvale Mine Extension. This particular business woman who does not have family working in the mines but relies on the money brought into the town by the mines is unable to order her next season stock purely because in her words, “What if there is not a town to sell my clothes to? I cannot afford to spend money I will not make back.”

- Springvale and Centennial Coal are great supporters of the Lithgow District offering funding to many projects within the community. They are one of the first businesses that local schools, preschools and community organisations turn to when sponsorship is required. Despite claims by out of town environmental activists that the coal industry takes and never gives back, our mining industry employers and employees are the first to offer support financially and otherwise to our community.

In conclusion it is important that I mention that Lithgow used to have an image of being a town covered in coal dust where the sun doesn’t shine and people don’t care they just live on their “high” miners wages.
Lithgow is in fact a town where the sun does shine, where we agree that the coal mining industry is not as big as it once was **but** that it is still a necessity to the people of NSW and there is a lot of work and infrastructure needing to be put into play before it is not an industry we will rely on.
We are NOT a town of people who do not care for the environment. We all love to go out on the weekends and enjoy what we have in our backyard.
This extension CAN go ahead and work environmentally despite what the out of town (and very few local), extreme, highly funded environmental groups -who are seeking support by using misleading old images and images of other coal mines as well as false information- are promoting.
Lithgow as a town consisting of 4 large and at least 6 smaller schools, a shopping centre and various small business relying on the coal industry, a state of the art Mines Rescue Station, Power Station, Local Hospital, an Arts Society and a very proud sporting history cannot survive as it is if this extension is not approved.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my submission of support for the Springvale Mine Extension to be approved.

Yours Sincerely,

Sandra Gordon
[redacted]