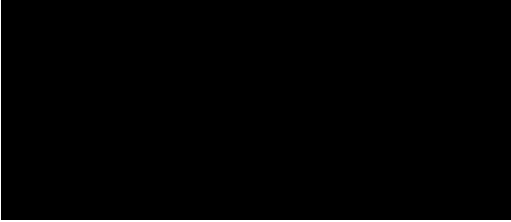


Subject: Angus Place mod 8 and West Coal Services mod 5 submission

I have made a reportable political donation:

No



I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern, I am a keen Bushwalker and environment volunteer. I live in Illawarra but love the Gardens of Stone from afar because of their unique structure, beauty and biodiversity. I am writing to object to the proposal. The UN and other Bodies have stated that the world must not open any new coal mines or expand any existing coal mines, in order to avoid runaway dangerous climate chaos and catastrophe. This proposal is inconsistent with that requirement. Furthermore it poses an unacceptable risk to the Gardens of Stone SCA which has only recently been declared. Australia's commitment to environmental conservation is already in doubt with the latest State of the environment report showing the Australian environment in poor and declining condition. This mine will likely damage the unique wetlands in the Gardens of Stone SCA by mining beneath them and cracking their beds. We have seen this process in the Illawarra region where cracked stone beneath creeks and wetlands simply cannot be remediated. This proposal should not be approved.

I am also concerned about the negative impacts of the proposal on Sydney's drinking water catchment, already under pressure from coal mining in the Illawarra region. The modifications will see more contaminated mine water going into the Wangcol Creek from the Western Coal Services site. This water is likely to be contaminated with toxic chemicals such as arsenic and selenium that have been recorded as present in the mine water of the Springvale-Angus Place mine water system. There is a risk of contamination by heavy metals and a threat to aquatic biodiversity as a result. It may impact macro-invertebrates in particular with flow on effects on fauna that eat them.

I am also concerned about the track record of Centennial Coal, which has been repeatedly fined for breaches of license conditions such as pollution events. It has been prosecuted by the EPA and had to enter into enforceable undertaking. An audit of Centennial Coal's compliance with its mining licenses over the last five years identified 130 plus separate incidences of non-compliance. This demonstrates a poor level of compliance, has resulted in significant environmental damage and raises concerns about Centennial's ability to comply with license conditions relating to this proposal. Furthermore it raises questions about the whole approach of allowing proposals such as this to go ahead based on future compliance with conditions. This is a high risk approach.

