[redacted]

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

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

[redacted]

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To whom it may concern
I am writing here in relation to my worries about the dammage that is intended to take place the Gardens of stone region. I'm very concerned how these minings can just go ahead and make there impact as though it doesn't even exist. when they have such a long term impact on the environment. From the water that is being polluted. even destoyed from underneath. And letting Sydney's drinking water supplies be part of the affect sounds a bit like population control, or benefits to big pharma in umungst the whole plan of it. So if future waterfalls and swamps will me ruined, where is there any benefit in the coal. I. it is very short sighted to damage these rock formations for a relatively minor short term profit. You can't eat money. realise this and understand there must be better ways for energy other than coal.
Having this planned as some sort of cover up in a long weekend should neither be accepted.
the impacts with modifications from Angus Place West major project, are going to be so seviere, they need to be assessed in totality with the major project, rather than piecemeal through these modifications.

The modifications should be withdrawn and the proposed changes should be included in Centennial's state significant development application for the Angus Place West mining area so that they can be appropriately assessed.

So now I hear the 2018, Angus Place Mine Modification 5 was allowed approved and i am horrified to see that pumping of 10 Million Litres of water each day from mine workings was accepted, when it can cause the groundwater table dropped between 21 and 30 metres. Centennial Coal, Coxs River Swamp Review, from July 2018, was not very realtistic. This drop in groundwater was observed to quickly dry out Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and associated swamps, as well as the Coxs River and swamps by Lithgow Environment Group, pers. comm. 4 Oct, 2023).

Since 2018, far-field loss of surface waters in Newnes Plateau streams and swamps have been observed over a kilometre away following depressurisation of groundwater in a coal seam due to coal mining at Springvale. Such far-field impacts may explain the observations made by Lithgow Environment Centre in 2018 and why future surface water losses from dewatering areas 800 and 900 may be expected.

The proposed modification 8 which would allow pumping at 10ML/day from areas 800 and 900 is likely to again lower the groundwater table and also impact on surface water resrouces of the area of operations for the Angus Place West proposal.

Due to the proximity of the Lithgow Coal seam to the surface in the Angus Place West project area. These modifications may cause regional drawdown or localised far-field drawdown of near-surface groundwater, damaging Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and swamps, as well as the upper Coxs River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including Xerochrysum palustre (Swamp everlasting), Pultenaea glabra, Kunzea cambagei, Veronica blakleyi, Grevillea acanthifolia, Gentianella cunninghamii, Prasophyllum australe and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). this is to damagging to go ahead.

The mine effluent will have elevated levels of heavy metals if salinity is treated to the proposed 350µS/cm standard. This level of treatment may not adequately protect aquatic ecosystems, especially macroinvertebrates, given the flow of mine water at the LDP001 entry point into Wangcol Creek. Wangcol Creek flows to the Coxs River and is part of Sydney's Drinking Water Catchment. 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.

The proposed discharges should not meet the "neutral or beneficial" test for water pollution because it adds to the overall pollution load in the creek. The transfer of 10ML/day of mine water from Angus Place to the Western Coal Services site for discharge should not be allowed.
Adding mine water to a highly polluted element of the Wangcol Creek catchment is also likely to flush out more heavy metals from that contiminated part of the catchment downstream into the Coxs River, a key part of Sydney's water catchment that flows through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

These modification proposals to allow large discharges of mine water also defeat the purpose of the $120 million Springvale Water Treatment Project (SSD-7592, approved in June 2017) that was built to eliminate mine water discharges from Springvale Mine and Angus Place Colliery.

Centennial has failed to demonstrate that it can operate responsibly in the Gardens of Stone region without causing irreversible damage to the environment. Records of environmental incidents and harm, consent and licence non-compliances and inaccurate predictions of environmental impacts from its operations suggest that current impact predictions in the environmental assessment should not be relied upon.

An audit of Centennial's mining licences for the past five years has found at least 134 licence non-compliances across its sites in the Gardens of Stone region. Centennial's non-compliance events in the region include:

• In 2022, Centennial breached its development consent for Airly mine causing major irreversible fractures to million-year-old sandstone pagoda formations in the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. The Department of Planning and Environment imposed a $150,000 enforceable undertaking on Centennial. The company has since mined outside its approved area at Airly Mine, a Class 1 reportable offence under NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

• In 2017, the EPA prosecuted Centennial after its coal waste storage at Clarence mine spilt 2330 tonnes of coal fines into the Wollangambe River and caused damage within the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, and Centennial was fined over $1 million and clean-up operations took 12 months.

• In 2015, Centennial was fined $15,000 when toxic coal sludge was illegally discharged from Springvale mine sediment storage ponds into downstream wetlands.

• In 2011, Centennial acknowledged that the Federal Environment Minister considered its mining activities had had a significant impact on Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone, namely Narrow Swamp, East Wolgan Swamp and Junction Swamp and entered a $1.45 million enforceable undertaking with the Commonwealth under s 486DA of the EPBC Act. These swamps have not recovered and are expected to be permanently lost. The company

has since paid $28 million that only partly offsets some of the significant damage it has caused to nationally endangered swamps on Newnes Plateau.
It should not be allowed to fail like this these projects should not be risked in the first place.

If the capacity of the 40ML/day Springvale Water Treatment Plant has been exceed and cannot treat an additional 10ML/day of mine water from Angus Place Mine as proposed in modification 8, then an additional water treatment plant is required. This is a large amount of additional mine water and the entire Angus Place and Springvale mine water matter requires thorough scrutiny by expert panels, including the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development, the NSW Independent Planning Commission and the Independent Expert Advisory Panel on Underground Mining.

Centennial Coal should withdraw modification 8 Angus Place and 5 Western Coal Services. Centennial Coal should at least seek to install a reverse osmosis treatment plant at Angus Place, as it did under modification 5, and then pump the brine effluent to Springvale Water Treatment Plant site for processing and appropriate disposal.

Any proposal for additional water treatment capacity at Angus Place Mine should be made as part of the major project for Angus Place West. Dischages from a reverse osmosis treatment plant at Angus Place should have a salinity of 30µS/cm to have a neutral effect on the salinity of the Coxs River headwaters that would receive this discharge.

All of this minning place needs to be stopped so the wetlands have a chance of restoration, not be given further dammage. There are new ways to energy that does not require coal.