

Gabrielle Allan

From: sysadmin@interlated.com.au on behalf of Gardens of Stone <sysadmin@interlated.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 October 2023 3:54 PM
To: Gabrielle Allan
Cc: jrobens@interlated.com.au; keith.muir6@bigpond.com
Subject: Angus Place mod 8 and West Coal Services mod 5 submission

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Anna McCormack
xannabm@gmail.com
218 Cowper St
Goulburn, NSW. 2580

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I'm a retired woman who has visited the Gardens of Stone area at different times during her life. As a person, I've always been charmed by the rock features and pristine bush environment of the area. Such areas are in decreasing supply, and once damaged, once gone, they are gone forever. I cannot stand by and let the threat to this natural area go unchallenged.

Moreover, as a former geologist I appreciate the threat to the water and rock environment posed by Centennial's proposed mine modifications. And as I local historian who has researched the history of coal mines in the Lithgow area, I cannot feel benign about the effects of their proposals. The area's mining instability requires more thought and less haste.

Opening the window for public comment on the day before the October long weekend was hardly fair. It is deceitful to consider that a time frame so restricted would constitute 'public consultation'.

The purport of the proposed modifications also is deceitful. Modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services seem to be part of a larger plan by Centennial to expand mining under Angus Place West, something that should have State significant development application. The modifications should be assessed as part of that proposed expansion. Hiding the impacts of the proposed changes as mere 'modifications' is to ignore the larger picture. Our natural heritage in the Gardens of Stone area will suffer if these piecemeal modifications go through.

Angus Place Mine Modification 5 that was approved in 2018 allowed pumping at a rate that caused groundwater levels to drop alarmingly, drying out creeks and swamps. I found it distressing to observe the effects more than a kilometre away, and I believe that some of the native flora adversely affected is quite uncommon. This negative effect has already happened. Further drying is likely to occur as a result of Centennial's proposed modifications, which will also affect watering for the Angus Place West proposal—another reason why the 'modifications' should be considered as part of the larger proposal.

Further, I'm disturbed to learn that Centennial's proposed modifications will see more contaminated water going from the mines into the Cox's River and hence into the Sydney water catchment. Influx of water polluted with toxic and/or heavy metals cannot be good for the city's water supply, so provision will be needed for a new treatment plant to cope. It seems to me that questions of toxic discharges from mining, fracking and similar sites often receive inadequate attention when approvals for operations are sought; and yet the effects of toxic metals and other ions on both people and the environment can be disastrous—and ongoing. If such is the case with Centennial's proposed modifications, and the larger Angus Place West project, then I strongly urge that the quality of discharge be thoroughly investigated before any approval is given.

In summary, the pumping of groundwater associated with the Centennial proposed modifications could adversely

affect subsurface aquifers and hence the quantity, distribution and quality of the present surface water; and these adverse effects would negatively impact not only the natural environment in the Garden of Stones area, but also Sydney's freshwater supply.

It's not as if Centennial has a good track record for wise management of coal mining water and waste, or for care of the natural environment. Among its defaults are the drying up of swamps on the Newnes Plateau, the discharge of toxic sludge into wetlands from Springvale mine, the spillage of coal fines into the Wollangambe River in a World Heritage Area, and illegal mining in a conservation area causing natural rock formations, as in the Gardens of Stone, to break down. Much deeper investigation of their capabilities and intentions is needed before approval is given to their proposed modifications.

I trust that you will give my submission due attention.

Especially I trust that you will take time to rigorously assess Centennial's modification proposals within a larger context, with reference to all the State and Federal laws under which approval is required.

Yours faithfully,

AMcCormack