

Gabrielle Allan

From: sysadmin@interlated.com.au on behalf of Gardens of Stone <sysadmin@interlated.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 October 2023 3:39 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

Jan O'Leary
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100 Burns Rd
Springwood, NSW. 2777

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I am a long term user of the Gardens of Stone area. I am a walker and photographer and have observed the damage caused by Centennial Coal and am appalled. I have put in submissions in the past, spoken at hearings about Centennial's expansion but even when the phasing out of coal operations is meant to be crucial to the planet's survival, approvals for expansion are granted. In the greater scheme of things this is unjustifiable but in this particular area, now granted the status of State Conservation Area, it is doubly troubling. This area is unique. Yet I have seen the cracks in the pagodas, read about the pollution of streams and even the threat to Sydney's water supply. Mining has had its day. At a time when the government is trying to encourage tourism in the area, the incompatibility of both is obvious.

The exhibition period obviously should not have begun on the October long weekend. The mandatory 14 day minimum time frame was effectively denied the public.

There seems to have been a sleight of hand employed in this application as Modification 8 for Angus Place and Modification 5 for Western Coal Services are obviously part of Centennial's plans to expand their mining operations under Angus Place West. The move is clearly designed to avoid being listed as state significant and going through that more difficult process. The changes proposed are environmentally significant and are certainly not minor changes to be assessed in this manner.

As previously mentioned previous modification approval (Mod 5) has resulted in drop in groundwater table and resultant drying out of Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and nearby swamps plus loss of surface waters in Newnes Plateau streams and swamps further afield. Modification 8 is again likely to lower the groundwater table as well as cause loss of surface water resources in the area.

The elevated levels of heavy metals resulting from treatment of salinity to the proposed standard is unlikely to adequately protect aquatic ecosystems. This effluent will eventually flow into the Cocks River, part of Sydney's Drinking Water Catchment. It is worth noting also that the Cocks River flows through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Toxic chemicals such as arsenic and selenium have been present in the discharged water of the Springvale-Angus Pl. mine water system. There is no reason to believe the effluent discharge in this case will be any better.

Centennial Coal has not been able to demonstrate that Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services are not matters of national environmental significance. The modifications should be controlled actions under the EPBC Act. These modifications should be referred to the Federal Environment Minister as it would seem they could precipitate use of the water trigger.

Centennial has a terrible environmental record which should rule it out of having any future expansions being approved. Just in the last 5 years it has had 134 licence non-compliance occurrences just in the Gardens of Stone area. However, the environmental damage it has caused to the area goes back much further than that till at least 2011 when the company was forced to pay \$28 million compensation for damage caused to endangered swamps in

the Newnes Plateau. That figure will not, however, help the swamps that are unlikely to ever recover. There should surely be a limit to how much damage a mining company can do and yet still have its expansive activities approved. The Springvale Water Treatment Plant has already exceeded its capacity. Clearly it cannot be expected to treat an additional 10ML/day of mine water as proposed in Mod 8. If additional water treatment facilities are required they should be part of the major project for Angus Place West.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.