

## Gabrielle Allan

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**From:** sysadmin@interlated.com.au on behalf of Gardens of Stone <sysadmin@interlated.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 October 2023 3:41 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

Melinda Turner  
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NSW. 2518

I am objecting to the proposal:  
Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have bushwalked in this region for 20 years and have explored extensively throughout the Gardens of Stone region. I feel a deep affinity with the natural beauty of the place. I wish that this beauty be appreciated by generations to come.

It is unique and must be protected!  
This is neither fair or just.  
The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with Angus Place West major project.  
The proposed modification 8 will damage wet lands. Nationally endangered flora and fauna will be harmed!  
The mine effluent will have elevated levels of heavy metals if salinity is treated to the proposed 350µS/cm standard.  
This will impact on the quality water flowing into Coxs River and Warragamba Dam.

I am concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. I think that this project is likely to have significant impacts on water and that the modifications should be referred to Environment Minister Plibersek to determine if the water trigger applies. Commonwealth assessment and the application of the water trigger is important to ensure that there is rigorous assessment of the surface and groundwater impacts of the modifications.

Centennial Coal has failed to demonstrate that Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services do not impact of matters of national environmental significance. The modifications should be controlled actions under the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act) for the following reasons:

- As “large coal mining” developments that will have, or are likely to have, “a significant impact on a water resource” the proposed modifications should be controlled actions under s 24D of the EPBC Act (known as the “water trigger”).
- These modifications will cause 10ML/day of mine water to be discharged into the Coxs River that flows downstream into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Any downstream impacts of mine water arising from the proposed modifications on World Heritage values of the World Heritage property must be considered.
- Due to groundwater drawdown associated with the Angus Place modification 8 mine water pumping proposal, depressurisation between surface and the near-surface groundwater aquifers is possible, and could alter the existing groundwater and surface water regime. These modifications may also have a direct or indirect changes in the water

resources of the Sydney Water catchment that must be considered. Far-field impacts on streams and swamps in the Angus Place West project area are possible and should be assessed.

- Due to a probable lowering near-surface groundwater aquifers, Angus Place modification 8 may impact on nationally endangered species such as Swamp Everlasting, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe*, Latham's Snipe and nationally endangered Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone in the Angus Place West Project Area. These impacts must be assessed.

The modifications are likely to impact on water resources of a drinking water catchment, a World Heritage Area and nationally endangered plants and communities. Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services should be controlled actions under the EPBC Act.

Centennial has an appalling record causing irreversible damage to the environment.

- 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.

They don't care about our unique heritage, they are just interested in profits!

If the capacity of the 40ML/day Springvale Water Treatment Plant has been exceeded 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. Discharges 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 Cocks River headwaters that would receive this discharge.

Mlanda