

Gabrielle Allan

From: sysadmin@interlated.com.au on behalf of Gardens of Stone <sysadmin@interlated.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 October 2023 2:34 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

Ian Baird
petalurids@gmail.com
3 Waimea Street Katoomba NSW 2780
Katoomba, NSW. 2780

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I have been a Katoomba resident for over 30 years and I am a practicing research ecologist/conservation biologist who has specialized in the study of the endangered Giant Dragonfly (*Petalura gigantea*) and its endangered peat swamp habitats in the Blue Mountains (Comm. EPBC Act and NSW BC Act), in particular, with a PhD on the subject, and also studied the endangered Blue Mountains Water Skink. I have published numerous relevant peer reviewed papers in International and Australian scientific journals. I am deeply concerned about the potential environmental impacts of this proposal.

With the extensive evidence of the catastrophic impacts of lowering water tables as a result of longwall mining (particularly by Centennial Coal in the Western Blue Mountains), on the groundwater dependent peat swamps of the Newnes Plateau and their obligately groundwater dependent species, including the Giant Dragonfly and Blue Mountains Water Skink, greater scrutiny of the current proposals is essential. This should include: assessment under the Commonwealth EPBC Act, 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, so that these modification proposals receive thorough scrutiny and scientific review by experts, and involve greater community consultation.

The modification proposals should be part of the Angus Place West major project.

The risk of contamination of Sydney's water supply catchment must be properly assessed, and questions raised as to why any such water should not be treated through the existing specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant. If the existing 'purpose built' plant is inadequate then Centennial Coal must be required to build a reverse osmosis plant to treat any additional waste water before discharge.

Centennial Coal have a background of inadequate, flawed and misleading environmental impact assessments and project reporting. This proposal must be subject to the most rigorous application of the Precautionary Principle.

The required 14 day public exhibition period has been compromised by opening at the beginning of a long weekend and must be redone.

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with Angus Place West 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.

Lon Baird