

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes



Blaxland, NSW. 2774

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I have been bushwalking and visiting the Gardens of Stone area over the past 25 years and would like to see the unique and beautiful pagoda formations and the integrity of the area not be threatened once again by mine expansions, modifications to consents, and discharges that will pollute Sydney's drinking water supplies into the future.

I feel it was disingenuous and a denial of the 14 day minimum timeframe, to have the window for public comment timed for the beginning of the Oct long weekend.

I believe the impacts of these modifications should be part of the Angus Place West major project and assessed as major changes. Their impact is major, not minor. They should be withdrawn and included in the State Significant DA so they can be assessed properly.

Adverse impacts on the groundwater table has been seen already and these modifications will continue and increase adverse impacts in the area.

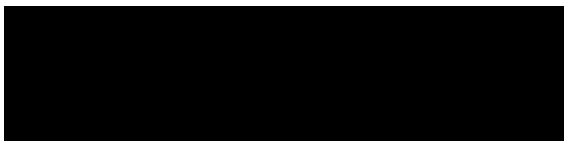
Mine effluent risks contaminating aquatic ecosystems, and this is too great a risk in this sensitive area.

Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services should come under the EPBC Act, and not skirted around it.

Centennial Coal has a poor track record over many years from as far back as 2011 in damaging the Gardens of Stone environment. They need to be scrutinised.

Additional water treatment is needed to protect the Cox's River and other streams and aquatic environments.

Protect the gardens of Stone and do not allow mine expansion and discharge of wastewater here at any time.



I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

John Park



Blackheath, NSW. 2785

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I have lived in the Blue Mountains for 12 years. I am a keen bushwalker and would have undertaken over 1000 days in the local bush. I am concerned that this unique area will be further damaged by the current proposal
My submission is somewhat rushed. To have only 14 days is a bit short

Having walked in the Gardens of Stone SCA, I have seen cracks in pagodas, caves and cliff lines that have been caused by mine subsidence. I know of swamps that have dried out and can only assume that cracking underneath has led to this state of affairs. Lowering the water table as proposed would only add to the problem of swamps dying out.

I refer you to the previous history of mining and its effect on local creeks. The dam that spilled into the Wollangambe several years ago was the most notable. However, I understand that research from Dr Ian Wright showed that the Wollangambe was already polluted from previous discharges. In the case of discharge into the Cox's River, I remind you that access for people to the Warragmbe Dam and lake Burragorang is already very limited. If the water supply is so fragile why is the doing of mine water being considered?

Centennial does not have a good record as far as safeguarding the environment. The cracks in caves, cliff and pagodas have been previously noted.

While I understand that a SVA allows both mining and conservation to coexist, it is abundantly clear to me that Centennial's past record in damage caused is already substantial. The proposal should not be allowed to proceed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Park".

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Grant O'Leary

[REDACTED]

Wellington, NSW. 2820

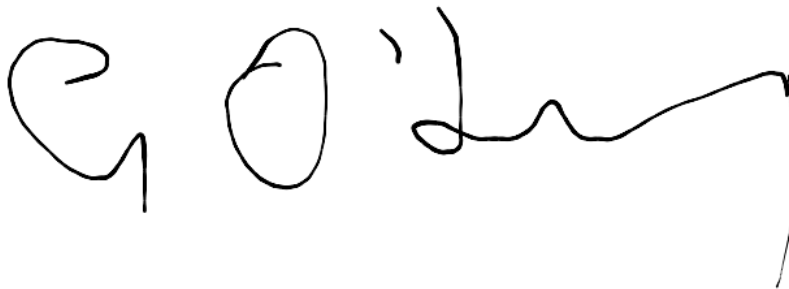
I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

The gardens of stone provide a wide range of unique and varied environments, sights and experiences. There should be no human activity in this area that would cause damage or harm. No exhibition should be for as long as it takes to ensure all decision makers and stakeholders fully understand the submissions and issues at Hans.

The swamp area in question forms part of the complex ecosystem that is encapsulated in the gardens of stone and no human activity should be allowed that would damage this.

All mining seems to be profit rather than environmentally focused

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

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Lenka Uvirova

[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Dennis Byrne



Wallerawang, NSW. 2845

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Centennial Coal's mine modification proposal.

I have lived in the Lithgow-Wallerawang area for 40 years and have bushwalked and explored extensively throughout the upper Coxs River and Wolgan River areas including Newnes Plateau. I am a former member of the Coxs River Water Management Committee. This involved meetings that covered issues relating to water extraction, river flows, water quality and compliance of the Coxs River catchment.

The exhibition of the proposed modifications over long weekend and the second week of the school holidays was inappropriate to allow time for submissions for the proposal.

It should be noted that the proposed modifications should be part of the Angus Place West proposal.

Water contamination of Coxs River:

Discharge of Angus Place untreated mine water into the Coxs River will threaten the water quality and biodiversity downstream including Lake Wallis, Lake Lyell, World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park and Sydney's drinking water supply at Lake Burragorang.

Use of existing Springvale mine water treatment plant:

Angus Place mine water treatment should be incorporated into the Springvale mine water treatment plant operations. The plant was constructed to eliminate untreated water discharging into the Coxs River.

However, if the Springvale Water Treatment Plant was to exceed the design capacity for the Springvale mine it could impact on treating mine water from the Angus Place mine. Therefore Angus Place mine would require a new fit-for-purpose water treatment plant.

Hoping these comments will be considered for a good environmental outcome.

No

The exhibition of the proposed modifications over long weekend and the second week of the school holidays was inappropriate to allow time for submissions for the proposal.


Water contamination of Cocks River:

Discharge of Angus Place untreated mine water into the Cocks River will threaten the water quality and biodiversity downstream including Lake Wallis, Lake Lyell, World Heritage Blue Mountains National Park and Sydney's drinking water supply at Lake Burragorang.

Use of existing Springvale mine water treatment plant:

Angus Place mine water treatment should be incorporated into the Springvale mine water treatment plant operations. The plant was constructed to eliminate untreated water discharging into the Cocks River.

However, if the Springvale Water Treatment Plant was to exceed the design capacity for the Springvale mine it could impact on treating mine water from the Angus Place mine. Therefore Angus Place mine would require a new fit-for-purpose water treatment plant.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ryan' or similar, with a large loop at the start and a trailing flourish.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to oppose and object to the proposed Angus Place Coal mine's plan to pump toxic effluent into the Sydney Catchment area and, most disturbingly, into the drinking water catchment.

My objection is based on the following:

- The potential for water contamination and the difficulty in adequately cleaning the water for consumption and safe use should this mine go ahead
- The environmental damage to the waterways and wetlands in the area, and the flow-on effect on the surrounding ecosystem and symbiosis of the environment
- The lack of time provided for the general public to comment on this proposal

I am significantly alarmed that further consultation has not been undertaken, and if this coal mine is to go ahead, that it would have devastating impacts on the natural environment, and the potential to contaminate Sydney's water supply; whilst further exacerbating the continuing climate crisis.

[REDACTED]

The general public was not given adequate time to comment under planning law.

The modification 8 proposal, which would allow pumping at 10ML/day from areas 800 and 900 is likely to affect the groundwater table and also impact on surface water of the area. This would thus alter the ecosystem's symbiosis, resulting in drawdown of near-surface groundwater damaging plants such as *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe*.

The proposal runs the risk of contaminating water, which could 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.

[REDACTED]

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

Lawson, NSW. 2783

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I am [REDACTED] and I live in the Blue Mountains.

I am concerned that we take care of our Blue Mountains and Garden of Stone environment.

Particularly regarding water - in the water table which is part of the system integrally connected with creeks and swamps.

I want adequate investigation that the health of the local environment will not be compromised by Centennial Coal's proposal to use ground water in its suggested modifications.

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I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Anna McCormack

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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 a 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

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Jan O'Leary

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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 'Johannes', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Kylie Salisbury

[REDACTED]

NSW. 2195

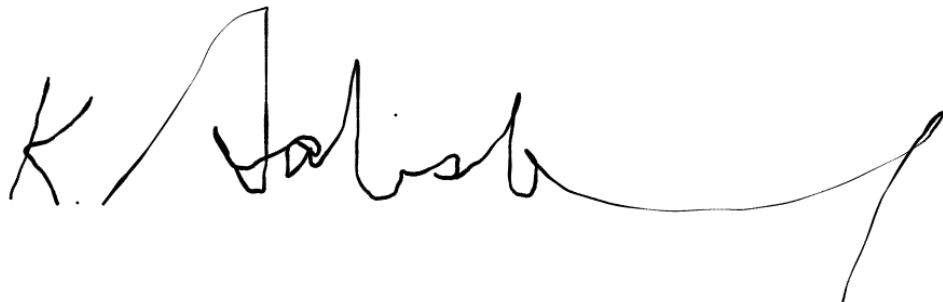
I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I am writing as a resident of Sydney to object to the proposal for various reasons, most notably the possible negative consequences for Sydney's drinking water.. Water is already a valuable resource and will become more so in the decades ahead. We are one of the few cities in the world where the drinking water is of excellent quality - and I want it to stay that way! The water this proposal will see dumped cannot be treated at the 40ML/day mine-water treatment plant. The modification proposals should be subjected to proper scrutiny under the Federal Government's environmental protection laws, we cannot simply rely upon reports from Centennial, whose track record is already unsatisfactory. Apart from the risk to Sydney's drinking water supplies, the proposal also risks damaging nationally endangered wetlands and swamps.

My second issue is with the timeframe for the entire process. By making the process difficult for the general public to find out about, research and respond to, it raises concerns that there is something to hide here, and that the quicker and more surreptitiously the whole process is completed, the better from the point of view of the parties involved. I am most unhappy at the way the whole matter is being handled and very suspicious and fearful of the outcome.

The fact that the start of the timeframe was the October long weekend, and then the timeframe itself being so short makes me suspicious of the intention. Clearly this is not a satisfactory window if the idea is to be transparent and democratic.

I am very concerned about the potential for contamination of Sydney's drinking water.

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

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Leichhardt , NSW. 2040

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

In the first instance I am totally opposed to any expansion of any coal mining in NSW.
Secondly, this unique area has only just received protection under the former NSW Government.
The idea that it could now be comprised by a coal mine expansion is completely unacceptable.
People have worked tirelessly to bring about the protection of this unique landscape and their efforts must be respected.

Lastly, the notion that this country would risk compromising it's previous water supply would be nothing less than criminal.

No

Yes

Yes.

Wetlands are vital to the health of the planet.

The local effect on plant and animal species will be significant and therefore unacceptable.

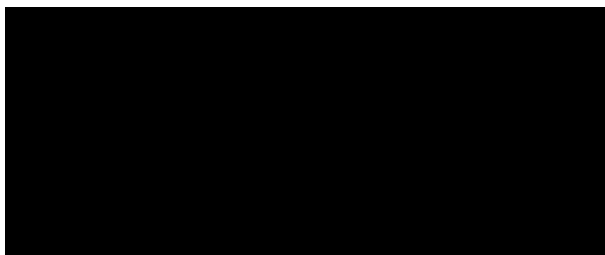
Yes

Yes

No

Yes

No



I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Susanne Mercanti

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Monterey, NSW. 2217

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

My name is Susanne Mercanti and I TOTALLY OBJECT to this project.
All we seem to care about is MONEY
Our conservation areas are diminishing fast. Nothin left for future generation, not withstanding the obliteration of thousands of creatures.
What will be left for future generatios? NOTHING!!!!
Stop thinking aabout money and think about what is being left behind We will end up being a baren country if this goes on.
WHAT FOR???? MONEY!!!!
Greedy people who only think for today.
STOP this proposal from going forward!!!!
Thank you

STOP THIS CRIME JUST FOR MONEY GREEDY PEOPLE. THINK OF TOMORROW AND FUTURE GENERATIONS!!!!!!

MINING PROPOSALS ARE NOT ADEQUATE.

STOP THIS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

THINK OF TOMORROW NOT JUST YOUR POCKET FOR TODAY.

THANK YOU AND PLEASE RECONSIDER.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT - NOT RUIN IT.

PEOPLE ARE AN EXTREMELY GREEDY LOT. THINK ABOUT TOMORROW AND WHAT WILL BE LEFT.

NO MORE .AND, NO MORE ANIMALS - WHAT ARE WE DOING??????

FILLING A FEW POCKETS TODAY. TOMORROW WE WILL LOOK FOR SOMETHING ELSE WE CAN RUIN.

WAKE UP AND KEEP OUR LAND BEAUTIFUL!!!!!!

DISCHARGE OF FILTHY WATER SO THAT WE CAN ALL GET SICK AND DIE

REESTABLISH THE SPRINGVALE WATER TREATMENT PROJECT

THINK!!!!!! OF WHAT WE ARE DOING!!!!!!

WHAT ARE THE SENATORS DOING WHO SHOULD BE LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT -
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!!!!!!!!!!

LETS LOSE MORE LAND THAT WILL - NEVER - REESTABLISH

STOP FILLING THE GREEDY POCKETS OF A FEW!!!!

THINK OF TOMORROW

ONCE AGAIN. LETS THINK ABOUT TE DISCHARGE AREAS AND HOW IT WILL AFFECT - EVERYTHING
COAL IS A DYING RESOURCE. THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE!!!!

my mouse does not work but my name is Susanne Mercanti and I would like to sign

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Jacqui Love

[REDACTED]

Blackheath, NSW. 2785

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

This mine needs to be SHUT DOWN, not expanded! The last time tailings ended up in the creeks, it was VOLUNTEERS that laboriously cleaned it up by hand. This mine and its activities have CRACKED ancient pagodas and the Mining Company's solution? To pour concrete into the cracks. GET REAL! SHUT THIS CIRCUS DOWN ONCE AND FOR ALL! They are trashing the place!

You need to give people more time to comment and submit objections. Your haste only benefits the mine! People have lives, work, families. Give them time to comment. Stop running roughshod all over the environment and community.

Just stop! Why are you continuing to trash the environment and the climate, like nothing is affected by it? STOP!

Just stop. You are wiping out species that we KNOW are threatened, and also wiping out species that haven't even been described yet.

These mines cannot be trusted. They ALWAYS cause damage, pollution, and wipe out habitats. They should NEVER be allowed anywhere near our national parks or water catchment areas.

As an Entomologist, I'm so tired of having to fight for the environment when our state AND federal governments should be ensuring this destruction does not occur. The governments should be making good decisions, rather than making conservationists and scientists do all the fighting.

GET THEM OUT OF THE REGION! They do not deserve to continue operations here in this fragile area.

How about we just shut it down? We don't need this coal.

Just end this idiocracy once and for all. It's time for our government to start making the hard decisions and stop being so easily influenced by mining lobbyists. The environment has no voice or money behind it. DO THE RIGHT THING!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqui Love', is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, there is a large, hand-drawn rectangular box, likely a placeholder for a stamp or seal.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

We need to stop fossil fuel mining because of the global warming effect.

We need to increase native vegetation and protect native animal habitat.

Mining will be in direct conflict with these objectives and I object to the proposal.

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

Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged Sydney's drinking water supplies might be contaminated (with 10ML/day of mine water that somehow can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant!)

The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon

Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

Angus Place and Springvale are the most incontinent coal mines on the planet! Centennial is determined to suck the Gardens of Stone reserve dry and pollute Sydney's water catchment with mine water. Surely you can't let such mine proposals go by without comment?

Limiting the opportunity to object to 14 days and across the long weekend doesn't pass the pub test. Be open and give the community a real chance to comment on the proposal.

Forcing the creation of an account on the opportunity to comment website limits the community opportunity to comment.

I want to keep my details off databases and certainly don't want an account. This limits my ability to comment and is unfair.

This looks like it is actually a development for Angus place west. This should not be hidden and put in piecemeal but be openly discussed as state significant development application

This proposed development will further degrade the habitat of the gardens of stone . Extraction of water will dry swamps and pollutes streams.

This is so against the desire of the public to retain natural environments.

I believe the proposed development will further pollution.

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.

This proposed should consider the impact on the environment and global warming by Federal government.

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

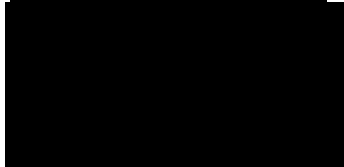
modifications should be controlled actions under the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act)

Centennial has a track record over decades and again in 2022 that they fail to protect the environment.

They should not be allowed to mine

There should be no taking of water from the environment by this development.

This proposed development I believe will take water and further pollute and water treatment is not adequate nor proposed to treat the volume of mine water to pristine levels required by humans and the environment .



I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Vaughan Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Faulconbridge, NSW. 2776

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the Blue Mountains & Lithgow area for 45 years and have travelled 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.

Each time I see these beautiful pagodas, streams, waterfalls and swamps damaged I feel as though I have been personally injured. I appreciate it when my child wonders at how the rock formations look like a particular bird, boat or boot and feel that it is very short sighted to damage these formations for a relatively minor short term profit.

I am a parent who enjoys taking my daughter exploring in the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area on weekends. I am worried about what this project might mean for the health of the Coxs River and this beautiful environment. My daughter loves the Gardens of Stone but I'm concerned that this mining project will have a long term impact on the environment and that mine water will pollute Sydney's drinking water supplies into the future.

The impact on the future environment, flora and fauna and the drinking water of almost an entire state depend on safeguarding important natural areas like the Gardens of Stone.

Opening the public exhibition before a public holiday long weekend is unfair.

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.

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 resources 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 cumbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). 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 Cocks 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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cocks 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.

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 matters of national environmental significance. The modifications should be controlled actions under the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act).

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.

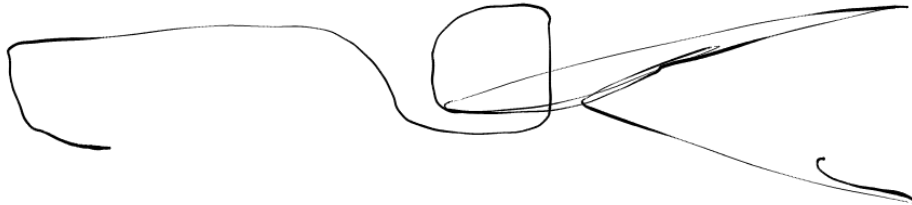
- In 2011, Centennial acknowledged that the Federal Environment Minister considered its mining activities had had a significant impact on Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone, namely Narrow Swamp, East Wolgan Swamp and Junction Swamp and entered a \$1.45 million enforceable undertaking with the 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.

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.



I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

john koch

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Manly, NSW. 2095

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern. Any modification requested by Centennial Coal requires close scrutiny. Its environmental report should be examined ie. checked out. Am member of Combined Retired Union Members Assoc. (CRUMA) which campaigned to preserve the Gardens of Stone with Colong Wilderness Organisation for years. Our members include the Retired Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union (CFMEU) members. Understand the swamps & wetlands of the Gardens of Stone may be damaged with the proposed modifications. If mine water is too polluted to be accepted by the \$120 million treatment plant its proposed discharge into a tributary of Cocks river endangers public health.

There needs to be an extension of time. Another month for a fair dinkum examination of the proposed modifications.

Centennial Coal modifications should be withdrawn. The proposed changes should be included in Centennial Coal's state significant development application for the Angus Place West mining for proper assessment.

No damage to unique wetlands should be allowed. Past history shows the damage caused by the ground water drop.

Heavy metal contamination is possible. Alarming that a key part of Sydney's water supply is put at risk. Protection of aquatic ecosystems is vital.

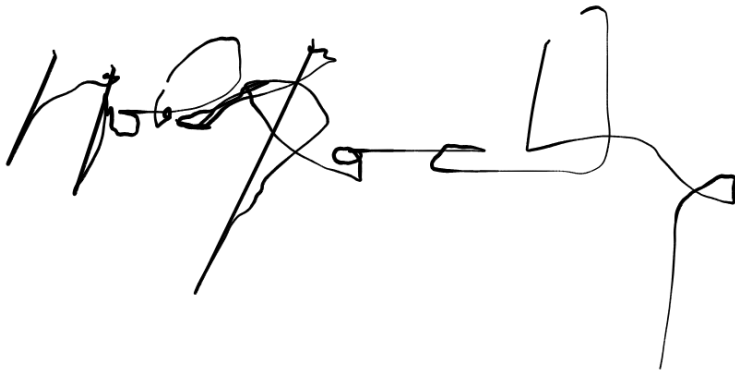
Federal Environmental Law should examine these modifications. Why has it not been referred ? "large coal mining, a significant affect/impact on a water resource."

Centennial Coal has poor history. 134 licence non-compliances across its sites in the Garden of Stone.

Capacity to treat additional discharge of mine water is beyond the operational treatment plants.

Centennial Coal need to bring a additional treatment plant into operation.

Build more reverse osmosis treatment plants before allowing the modifications.

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

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Duncan Baigent

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bullaburra, NSW. 2784

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident of the Blue Mountains and have been so for nearly 20 years. During that time I have done several walks in the Gardens of Stone area and other areas in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area and it has always saddened me to see the damage we have done by allowing coal mining under these areas and allowing discharge of mine water into some of the local waterways.

The short period of 14 days which included a public holiday and school holidays looks as though it was designed to minimise any public scrutiny. There should be at least another well advertised 14 day period allowed.

Why are these modifications not part of the Angus Place West proposal? They are obviously related to this proposed expansion of the mine so should be assessed rigorously as part of it. Is Centennial Coal trying to avoid proper assessment and trying to avoid its responsibilities to safeguard the environment. Is the company trying to avoid the expenditure required to clean the water before discharge. The company should be told to withdraw the modifications and include them in the State Significant development application for the Angus Place West development.

This proposed modification will adversely affect groundwater, swamps and creeks in the area as has been clearly demonstrated by the damage caused by the previous Modification 5 approved pumping at the same rate as the proposed Modification 8. It's time that mining companies are stopped from causing any damage to sensitive environments and endangered species and this needs to be rigorously policed.

Any mine effluent that is permitted to be discharged into local waterways should not have higher concentrations of any component that is higher than in the natural waterway. Why does this proposal not use the existing Springvale Water Treatment plant to ensure that there will not be any pollution of waterways?

This modification is significant and has the high probability of creating adverse environmental impacts. As such it should be assessed under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

Centennial Coal is not a 'Good Citizen' when assessed on past performance of its mining operation. It has been fined several times for damage to waterways and swamps and associated species. Any proposal from this company must be assessed with utmost caution and any decisions should definitely not favor the company over the environment.

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.

These modifications should not be considered separately from the main mine development proposal, they are part of the one operation and should be considered together as parts of a major project.

DR Baigand

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Jenny Pollak

[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

I am a Sydney resident with a deep love of the unique and special Gardens of Stone – an area that I have explored extensively with walking groups and as an artist and photographer. There is no other region like it in NSW and I consider it a duty of care that we protect it for future generations to enjoy.

I am writing to you today because I am extremely concerned about the proposed mining project. In 2016 I documented two very special waterfalls in this area, waterfalls that were fed by the hanging swamps above them. Hanging swamps are very special and sensitive eco-systems that not many people are aware of. They filter and purify the water that passes through them and are sensitive to disturbances in the bedrock. Since the time that I documented these waterfalls the extension of a long wall mine below the hanging swamps resulted in the death of one of the swamps, and the subsequent death of one of the most beautiful and pristine waterfalls I have ever seen. Both the hanging swamp and the waterfall have now been lost forever because of this shortsighted project.

In the long term interests of preserving this very special and sensitive environment for future generations I ask you to reconsider a proposal that for short term gain will jeopardise the long term health and wellbeing of a very special and unique region.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Pollak

I believe that the short window of opportunity given to the public does not allow enough time for studied and detailed comment.

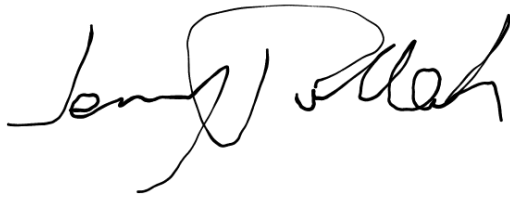
The proposed changes should be included in Centennial's development application for the Angus Park West Mining area in order to be properly assessed by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, particularly in the light of their proposal to by-pass the reverse osmosis treatment plant, a proposal that could greatly impact on the water quality of the Cox's River catchment area. As I mentioned in my introductory letter, I have documented two waterfalls fed by hanging swamps, one of which later completely died after the hanging swamp dried out after extensions to one of the mines. I believe that this is a short sighted plan that will be detrimental to the long term well-being and health of the hanging swamps and the waterfalls that they feed.

I believe that there is a risk of contaminating Sydney's water catchment should large discharges of mine water be allowed. The possibility of flushing out heavy metals in the Wangcol Creek catchment must surely be avoided at all costs.

Centennial has not been able to demonstrate that the proposed changes will not impact the health of environment and water quality.

Having seen how Centennial Coal has already caused significant environmental damage and

continued to act illegally I have no confidence that their future behaviour will be any better.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Blair". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop over the 'y' in "Tony".

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Jennifer Kent

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dulwich Hill, NSW. 2203

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern

As a keen bushwalker I have walked in the Gardens of Stone for over twenty years. It is a simply beautiful unspoilt area and its unique rock pagodas and vistas make it one of my favourite places to walk. I am very concerned that this proposal will significantly impact on the natural values of the area and further risk water contamination of Sydney's drinking water.

I think the timing of the submission period at the beginning of a long weekend and in school holidays impinges on the ability of the public to have the required 14 day minimum comment period.

The modifications should be withdrawn and be included under the Angus Place West mining area so that they can be appropriately assessed. There is significant risk of this proposal to the national heritage values of the Gardens of Stone which need to be considered within the context of the entire Angus Place West major project.

In 2018 approval of mine pumping, Angus Place Mine Modification 5, resulted in a dramatic drop of groundwater table and far-field loss of surface water in Newnes Plateau streams and swamps. It could be expected that the proposal will lead to similar impacts with the risk of damaging Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and swamps as well as harming nationally endangered plants.

The proposal risks Sydney's Drinking Catchment through release of mine effluent with potential toxic contaminants such as Arsenic and Selenium into Wangcol Creek which flows into Cox's River.

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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cox's 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.

The surface and groundwater impacts of the proposal have not been rigorously assessed and the proposal should be referred to Environment Minister Plibersek as the water trigger under the the Federal Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Act (EPBC Act) may apply. The release of 10 ML/day of mine water into the Cox's River that flows into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area must be considered.

Furthermore potential changes to the groundwater and surface water systems 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.

Centennial has a history of licence non-compliance issues across its mine sites in the Gardens of Stone including serious breaches such as damage to million-year-old sandstone pagodas; coal fine pollution of Wollangambe River; and illegal discharge of toxic sludge into downstream wetlands. Centennial mining activities has had significant impact on Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone and the likely loss of nationally endangered swamps on Newnes Plateau. This represents a very poor track record of its environmental obligations under NSW environmental law.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Kent'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'J' and a stylized 'K'.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Simon Alexander

[REDACTED]

North Parramatta, NSW. 2151

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

Modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services appear to be part of Centennial's plans to expand mining under Angus Place West – which has to go through a state significant development application.

The executive summary of the report for these modifications makes their connection to Centennial's expansion plans clear when it concludes that, "The proposed modification will ... safeguard the feasible recovery of the coal resource remaining at the mine."

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with the proposed Angus Place West mine expansion, rather than piecemeal through these modifications.

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 Cocks River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbidgei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). 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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cocks 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 Coal has failed to demonstrate that Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services do not impact 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 Cocks 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW

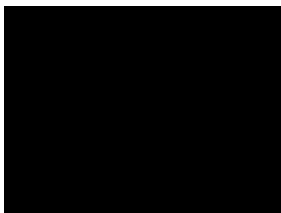
I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern, I am a keen Bushwalker and environment volunteer. I live in Illawarra but love the Gardens of Stone from afar because of their unique structure, beauty and biodiversity. I am writing to object to the proposal. The UN and other Bodies have stated that the world must not open any new coal mines or expand any existing coal mines, in order to avoid runaway dangerous climate chaos and catastrophe. This proposal is inconsistent with that requirement. Furthermore it poses an unacceptable risk to the Gardens of Stone SCA which has only recently been declared. Australia's commitment to environmental conservation is already in doubt with the latest State of the environment report showing the Australian environment in poor and declining condition. This mine will likely damage the unique wetlands in the Gardens of Stone SCA by mining beneath them and cracking their beds. We have seen this process in the Illawarra region where cracked stone beneath creeks and wetlands simply cannot be remediated. This proposal should not be approved.

I am also concerned about the negative impacts of the proposal on Sydney's drinking water catchment, already under pressure from coal mining in the Illawarra region. 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. There is a risk of contamination by heavy metals and a threat to aquatic biodiversity as a result. It may impact macro-invertebrates in particular with flow on effects on fauna that eat them.

I am also concerned about the track record of Centennial Coal, which has been repeatedly fined for breaches of license conditions such as pollution events. It has been prosecuted by the EPA and had to enter into enforceable undertaking. An audit of Centennial Coal's compliance with its mining licenses over the last five years identified 130 plus separate incidences of non-compliance. This demonstrates a poor level of compliance, has resulted in significant environmental damage and raises concerns about Centennial's ability to comply with license conditions relating to this proposal. Furthermore it raises questions about the whole approach of allowing proposals such as this to go ahead based on future compliance with conditions. This is a high risk approach.



I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Kirsten Versendaal

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

East Kurrajong, NSW. 2758

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have been a long time resident of the Hawkesbury and Blue Mountains areas. I love living in these areas because of their unparalleled natural beauty. However, the Gardens of Stone hold a special place in my heart. Anytime I visit the area, I am overwhelmed by the absolutely unique majesty of this area. This area should be protected in all possible ways to preserve its beauty so that future generations are able to experience the same feeling.

I really object to anything that threatens the natural beauty of the Gardens of Stone and am dismayed at the constant attempts from mining companies to increase their profits by endangering and potentially permanently destroying natural habitats. In addition to this, the current proposal also risks contaminating Sydney's drinking water supply.

Could you please stop this proposal from going ahead and ensure that the Gardens of Stone is protected from mining company activities?

I find it objectionable that a 14 day consultation period was commenced that incorporated a long weekend. A 14 day consultation period is already very short and should not be eroded further by including public holidays in the consultation period.

Based on past events, I think the modification proposal will impact groundwater levels and cause damage to fragile environments. Therefore I do not think the proposal should proceed.

Contaminated water should not be allowed to be discharged into the environment. All efforts should be made to protect the catchment areas from mine pollution. Please do not allow Centennial Coal or any other mining companies to discharge their waste into the environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Versendaal', written in a cursive style.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Melinda Turner

[REDACTED]

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 Coks 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 Coks 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.

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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 $30\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ to have a neutral effect on the salinity of the Cocks River headwaters that would receive this discharge.

Melinda Turner

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Matt McLeod

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tottenham, NSW. 2873

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I'll keep it very simple.

I object to this project. Close down the damn mine. No to further mining. We don't want it and we don't need it.

All water to be correctly treated. No to dumping it into the waterways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt McLeod', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW. 2104

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

My family are avid campers. We love getting out in nature and frequent our national parks and conservation areas at every opportunity. I feel passionately that we should do everything to protect our native bushland—not just to preserve our flora and fauna but so that we can immerse ourselves in it and use it to teach our children about our country and its unique environments. I believe that it's particularly important to have this protected land near to our major cities so that it's in driving distance for weekend travel and weekend's away (camping, hiking). Garden of Stone is so important because of its accessibility and nearness to Sydney. It needs to be protected so that families like mine can visit on weekends and experience its beauty. I am deeply concerned that this coal mine will damage Garden of Stone and that damage will impact not just my generation but my kids and future generations. I am also very concerned about contamination of Cox's River and Sydney's drinking water. Anything that throws contamination into our catchment, or even prompts fear of contamination, may drive Sydney—siders to consume bottled water. This creates more environmental damage (through disposable plastic bottles) and possible health implications (from reduced fluoride intake and BPA exposure). Please knock-back this mining proposal and protect our native bushland.

I find it highly distasteful that the window for comment on this proposal has been across a school holiday period. This is 'gaming the system' and the period should be extended to enable all those families to return home, consider the proposal and respond. Absolutely shameful.

These modifications should be considered in totality and not piecemeal so that the full extent and implications are thoroughly understood. A piecemeal approach has a high likelihood of obscuring the full impact. I believe that 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.

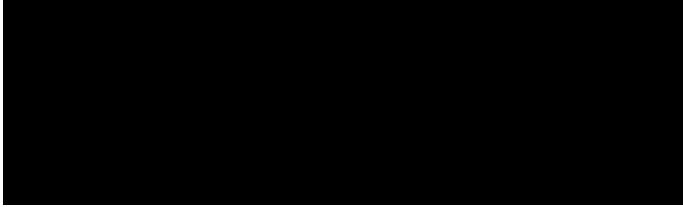
I am very concerned about the impact of water draw-down from this proposal. It appears likely that groundwater levels will drop significantly. It also seems likely that the (surface water) surrounding wetland areas will be extensively impacted. This includes possible loss of flora and displacement of fauna from these swamp areas. I believe that any such losses are unacceptable. These are unique environments that should be conserved.

Large discharges of mine water must not be allowed to occur. This would present massive contamination events into the Blue Mountains world heritage area which millions of tourists flock to (me included) every year. It will also, selfishly, impact Sydney drinking water affecting millions of residents and undermining confidence in our drinking water.

From everything that I've read in the proposal, it appears that it will impact water levels, Sydney drinking water and contaminate water ways through World Heritage listed areas. I believe that these impacts are significant and detrimental and probably meet the 'water trigger' threshold and therefore the proposal should be referred to our federal environmental minister to assess and make this determination.

Centennial has an appalling track record failing to meet its environmental stewardship obligations.

From fractured sandstone at Airly to coal waste storage failings in the blue mountains area, discharge of toxic sludge at Springvale and the list goes on. Ecosystems are still damaged in the wake of Centennial's failings. With such a track record, any submission from them must be scrutinised with cynicism. They are not fit stewards of any land anywhere near ecologically sensitive or protected areas.



I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Catriona Goodwin
[REDACTED]

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

NSW planning Dept

To Whom it may Concern,

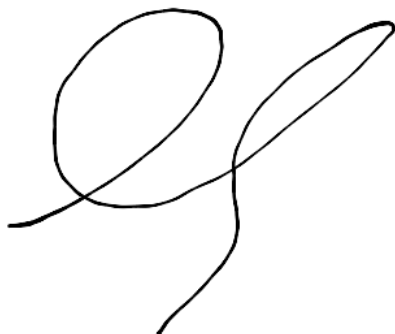
I am disappointed that so little time has been given to respond to such an important decision. It seems like you just want to rubberstamp these approvals by opening submissions on a long weekend during school holidays.

These modifications are not minor and should be assessed as part of the whole Angus Place West project.

The wetlands have already been damaged by the significant drop in groundwater from Angus Place Mine modification 5. This risks the health and existence of the plants and creatures that rely on the wetlands for shelter, food and breeding. I don't understand why coal mining is given priority over the environment. Australia is such an old, fragile Continent. Our groundwater is a very precious resource that ought to be valued and protected. Water is life; for nothing can live without it. It boggles the mind, that in this day and age, with all the technology we have available, and the knowledge of the deleterious effects of the chemicals in the contaminated mine water, that it is proposed to dump this water into Wangcol Creek. Wangcol Creek flows into the Cocks river, which is a key part of Sydney's water catchment. I can't understand why anyone would think it is a good idea to pollute the water millions rely on. I can only assume, that this would save the Mine operators money, and public health is not a consideration.

Centennial Coal has a poor record of complying with its licence conditions. How can it be trusted when it has already caused so much permanent damage? How can you rely on its predictions of environmental impacts?

Looking at Centennial's proven record of non-compliance and environmental damage, it makes me wonder why they are even allowed to continue operations, much less expand and take more groundwater, cause more environmental damage and increased risk to Sydney's drinking water.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that ends in a small upward flick.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Sue Abbott

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

North Hobart, TAS. 7000

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

There is no rationale for any government to destroy such a natural wonder for a destructive fossil fuel project. It breaks my heart to watch coalition and labor governments completely disregard the facts and approve ecocide for their fossil fuel mates. The International Energy Agency have stated very clearly that if we never approve another fossil fuel project or even continue with projects already approved we will still be struggling to reduce our emissions to pre-industrial levels by 2050. This is a cynical government move to stealthily deny its citizens of their right to have their say - it demonstrates that this government knows it has no social licence for this proposal. 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. What an example of a government ensnared by corporate capture.

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 resources 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 draw-down or localised far-field draw-down 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 cabbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). It is unconscionable that the wetlands will be damaged.

Centennial Coal will destroy Sydney's drinking water - the company is not fit to have a licence to do business, and this project should be refused.

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.

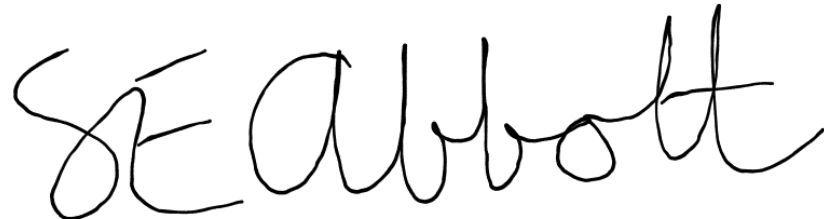
The modifications are likely to impact on water resources of a drinking water catchment, a World Heritage Area and nationally endangered plants and communities. Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services should be controlled actions under the EPBC Act.

Centennial Coal has failed to demonstrate that Modification 8 Angus Place and Modification 5 Western Coal Services do not impact matters of national environmental significance.

I have no confidence in Centennial Coal's ability to operate responsibly. Their track record is poor, and littered with environmental abuses. I cannot believe I even have to write this submission given how widely known it is that Centennial Coal is an arrogant and non-compliant developer and operator.

I strongly object to Centennial Coal's pollution record. I object to permitting this fossil fuel company to be in charge of our water.

The time for mining is over. The time for Centennial Coal is over. There is no safe level of mining. There is no safe level of pollution. There are no safe levels of greenhouse gases. We are reaching tipping points, in fact maybe we have already reached them, and Centennial Coal has no place in our world of business, and certainly not in the beautiful Gardens of Stone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "SE Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "S" and "E" are connected, and the "A" is a large, open loop. The "b", "b", and "t" are also connected in a fluid manner.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Gerard Wilson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Salamander Bay, NSW. 2317

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

Good day

My name is Gerard Wilson and as a youth growing up in Sydney we spent many family and school excursions visiting the world famous blue mountains and it's attractions.

I have continued including the blue mountains as a special place in my life ever since and have relied on its wholesome cleanliness to provide my family and myself pure water for most of my life.

It has unique and rare ecosystems as exemplified by the Blue Mountains or Dwarf Mountain Pine (*Pherosphaera Fitzgeraldii*) in the same vein as the Wollombi Pine.

Changing or affecting the existing water tables or pollution by the proposed mining even slightly could have drastic affects on the many and varied plant community's that this diverse world renowned ecosystems include. The affect to the flora cannot but affect the insects and fauna and hence forth down the through the many watersheds to our water catchments and agricultural lands.

Please consider our children's future and our states long term viability in making conservative, safe decisions that don't endanger our resource's. The resource that is the coal won't be lost if we don't mine it with our current technology endangering the environment that is vital for our own health and well being. This energy source is not wasted if left till it can be safely produced and used. NSW is blessed with many coal resources, not just this one that threatens polluting dirty water discharges.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Christine Oddie

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

LITHGOW, NSW. 2790

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To Whom It May Concern,

I wish to state my objection to this proposal which should form part of the Angus Place West major project. This modification proposal should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environment law and Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon without further investigation.

The 14 day minimum time permitted under planning law for review and comment on modification proposals which started on a long weekend predicates questions that may be asked as to whether these modification proposals should not properly assessed

These modifications should be part of the Angus Place West proposal because they are not minor changes - these modifications could damage nationally endangered swamps and plants and drain water from streams in the new Garden of Stone State Conservation Area. These modification proposals also intend to by-pass the \$120 million reverse osmosis mine water treatment plant and recommence the discharge of mine water into the Cocks River catchment. Again, Federal environment laws should be called upon in this assessment. Therefore, 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 properly assessed and, I repeat, evoke Federal environment laws.

Yes, absolutely. These swamps and wetlands which are vital to the environment have been glossed over in Centennial reports over the years and these natural phenomena have existed for at least 12,000 years AND THEY ARE VITAL to the local environment. Too often in reports consultants say they have investigated these areas and found nothing of consequence - this is not true - and I have personally experienced that consultants hired by Centennial have glossed over vital environmental aspects of these proposals. The proposed modification 8, for example, 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 resources of the area of operations for the Angus Place West proposal.

I do believe that the mine effluent will have elevated levels of heavy metals if salinity is treated to the proposed 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. This creek flows to the Cocks 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.

Yes, absolutely and for the following reasons - with a new Federal Government, these matters should be raised under Federal law.

We are concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. We 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 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 Cocks 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.

No, not without further investigation and probity.

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 Muggi 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.

Yes, and elsewhere in this submission, I have answered yes.

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.

My concerns are important as in the past, I feel objections have been washed over and final submissions made by a panel appear to only accept the applicant's side of the story. We are people on the ground and we see, that is me and other concerned citizens of this area, physical effects of this company's whitewashing of the whole story. I sincerely and humbly ask that at least this proposed modification be taken to the Federal level for assessment. Truly, if the company has really done its homework and has the best interest of people, environment, profit at heart, then it has nothing to fear from further investigation. For too long, such companies have not been held to account. Mining will continue in various forms, but laws need to be enacted to hold companies to account for their effects on environment, communities and accountability under the law.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I am a regular recreational visitor who enjoys exploring in the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area during weekends. I am very concerned about what this project might mean for the health of the Cocks River and this beautiful environment. I have always believed the Gardens of Stone area as naturally significant. I am highly concerned that this mining project will have a long term impact on the environment and that the mine water will ultimately pollute Sydney's drinking water supplies in the very near future. We cannot allow this to proceed. Thank you, Another Concerned Australian. What a disgrace! Now you know something isn't right and wouldn't pass the pub test. Someone is definitely on the take...

The Cocks River is a unique and viable home for Platypus.

What a disgrace, who is the financial recipient within NSW Government, looking to approve this travesty ?

Is somebody in NSW Government, financially benefitting from this arrangement..?

This must be addressed at a Federal level, so as to mitigate local involvement and influence.

They will throw money at local officials to turn a blind eye. Not on, no way.

If the people cannot save the pristine local lands and waterways, who will. There is obviously a lot of money being directed towards supporters of the pending devastation. This cannot be allowed to occur.

Follow the money. Something definitely fishy going on here. Who and why?

[REDACTED]

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Glen Philpott

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

COOGEE, NSW. 2034

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

My name is Glen Philpott

My family and i visited the gardens of stone over many years, We would be very disappointed if the gardens and surrounding areas were to be damaged in any way.

We only just found out about the proposals, and feel the length of time is very short for people to comment.

Any modifications should be part of the Angus place west proposal, If it is truly a Conservation area, water should not be pumped into the cox river catchment area bypassing the reverse osmosis treatment facility.

The 2018 modifications angus place mod no. 5 has caused many streams to dry out as we have observed. This will surely affect the flora and fauna of the reservation area.

As coxs river is part of sydneys drinking water catchment, these modifications should not proceed.

Thsrse modifications must be assessed under federal environment law.

I can recall many instances of failed safety standards from centennial mines over the last 12 yrs or more, the companies Eis reports should be taken with a grain of salt.

The large expansion of water needed for the Angus place and springvale mines, should be thoroughly examined by an independent group of experts.

G Philpott

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Margaret Booth

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SOUTH TURRAMURRA (NSW), NSW. 2074

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I was so relieved when gardens of Stone recently won recognition as a special place of Nature.

Please do not allow the mining to proceed at Angus place mine and Western Coal Services.

I DO NOT want our water supply affected by toxic runoff

I DO NOT want the Gardens of Stone bushland to have this activity.

Not long enough for public comment

The modification process is NOT adequate for appropriate assessment.

This proposal will damage wetlands which are an integral part of the value of Gardens of Stone.

The proposed treatment plant is not up to the job of protecting the wetlands and the water supply leading into Warragamba.

The proposal will reduce the integrity of the swamp species and must not take place as this will affect the World heritage area.

Centennial Coal cannot be relied on to responsibly work this mine and assess the effects of their work.

The runoff requires more effective treatment.

Please do the responsible thing for this special place and reject the mining expansion.

Margaret Booth

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Maurice Dowson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Stanwell Tops, NSW. 2508

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

Dear Sirs,

I am deeply concerned about Centennial's Angus Place and Western Coal Services modification proposals, and hereby lodge my objections for the following reasons.

There is a clear risk of pollution to Sydney's drinking water supplies, therefore the proposals require comprehensive scrutiny by experts such as the NSW Independent Planning Commission and the Independent Expert Advisory Panel on underground mining, the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development, and the Federal Government.

The modifications put at risk the Gardens of Stone Conservation Reserve thus should be a controlled action under the EPBC Act

The proposals put at risk Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps

Apparently this mining company seeks to pump out the toxic effluent from Angus Place Coal mine and dump it into Sydney's drinking water catchment, in order to lay the groundwork for a new coal mine, and the water they are proposing to dump can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant

Aside from the devastating impact of a new coal mine on the climate, the water they are proposing to dump into Sydney's drinking water catchment is too polluted to be cleaned by the specially built mine water treatment plant.

It is a damning indictment that Centennial's mine proposals also include plans to recommence discharges of mine water to the Cox's River catchment, part of Sydney's water catchment.

Many countries in the world are in a race to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy sources, in line with all the scientific advice in the IPCC Reports and dire warnings from the United Nations about the impacts of carbon dioxide and other pollutants into the atmosphere, causing catastrophic global warming.

Apart from vested interests and absolute greed, let alone political influences, even schoolchildren can understand climate change and the causes of very recent global wildfires, floods and cyclones. It would seem to be madness to approve projects such as this.

Please understand that climate change will affect YOUR offspring, THEY will suffer the consequences.

There should be as much community involvement in decision making as possible.

Sincerely.

M. Dowson

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Ian Baird

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Coffs Harbour, NSW. 2450

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have been a proud resident of Coffs Harbour for 20 years. The beauty of the region is breathtaking and I wish that this continue to be appreciated by generations to come. Each time I see these beautiful streams, waterfalls and swamps damaged I feel as though I have been personally injured. Our environment is precious and priceless. We need to look after it.

Yours sincerely

Rachael Le Busque

The short window for public comment on these proposals opened at the beginning of the October long weekend. This timing means the public has effectively been denied the 14 day minimum time permitted under planning law for review and comment on modification proposals. It is not fair.

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with the proposed Angus Place West mine expansion, 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.

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 cernua*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species).

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 contaminated 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.

I am concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. We 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 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 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 Wollangambe 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.

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.

Nothing further.



I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Dan Davies

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Armidale, NSW. 2350

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in NSW for over 50 years and have worked on the land extensively. I have visited the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area and feel it should be protected. I want this place to be appreciated by generations to come.

Wherever I see poor land management practices employed for short term profit I am sickened and deeply saddened that we could even consider exchanging the health of our environment for financial gain. When you damage the environment you directly affect the health of the wildlife that relies on it, and that includes us. I want my children and grandchildren to grow up in a healthy land, not one tainted and destroyed by greed and myopic waste.

I am extremely concerned about the effects this project will have on the health of the Cocks River and surrounding environment. I'm worried that this mining project will have a long term impact on the environment and that mine water will pollute Sydney's drinking water supplies into the future. This cannot be allowed to happen, it would be another crime against nature.

Sincerely,

Dan Davies

No, this is not fair. The timing means the public has effectively been denied the 14 day minimum time permitted under planning law for review and comment on modification proposals.

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with the proposed Angus Place West mine expansion, rather than piecemeal through these modifications. This is entirely inadequate.

The proposed Angus place mine 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 resources of the area of operations for the Angus Place West proposal. This is evidenced by available studies. The impacts are significant and must inform better decision making and effective controls.

The possibility of contamination to ground water supplies is very real as studies show. There is no acceptable risk when it comes to ensuring the health of our water supplies. There is no excuse for risking contamination. This cannot be allowed to happen, it would be a highly significant environmental crime.

I am concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. I think that this project will 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.

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 along with the associated harm to native fauna.

I do not believe Centennial Coal is a fit custodian of our natural environment/heritage, their track record is appalling.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Davies". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dan" and last name "Davies" clearly distinguishable.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

John Robens

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Leichhardt, NSW. 2040

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I have visited the Cox River many times. I understand the importance of clean drinking water. I have visited the Gardens of Stone. I love bushwalking around the entire area. There are amazing places to discover. None of these places will recover if damaged. The boys love playing in streams and exploring the area.

I don't feel that we have had long enough to consider this proposal.

Are there technical thresholds on what constitutes a "modification". The increased water discharge appears 'large'. What impact on salinity in rivers and our drinking water constitutes 'minor' and satisfies the criterion for a modification? As a bushwalker who appreciates the scenic beauty of these areas rather than as a miner, these changes appear to be significant. I am at a technical disadvantage in quantifying these impacts, and the impacts while an extension of existing practice add up to a major impact on the landscape for me. I don't feel that this should be assessed as a modification.

The cumulative impacts of these proposals is a problem. Various proposals chip away at the values of an area, until finally extractive proposals can be waved through as the area has been degraded to a moonscape. This has not yet happened here, although there is a risk that other significant proposals to extract from this area will result in what should be a beautiful place for our children to explore will be totally destroyed.

Wetlands keep the plateau alive. Pumping out 10ML/day is going to have a significant impact on the life supporting systems in the area. This amount of water does not get 'created' by the mine, but draws down from the surrounding areas. This is a massive amount of water that won't be available to help ecosystems survive extended dry periods. Even in wet times, I've seen swamps that have collapsed due to changes in water tables and they do not appear to ever recover.

Our water supply should be put at risk to support short term extraction. The mess that is at Wallerawang, the Wolgan, Wollangambe and in other locations should be the priority. We have demonstrated that this extraction is unnecessary and the priority should now be to minimise the damage that may be caused in the future by the extractive choices we made in the past. We should not pass this burden down generations, and emplacements at Clarence, ash dams at Wallerawang, polluted creeks such as Wangcol, or even the Grose are going to cause greater problems as time goes on if not cleaned up urgently. Clean up the existing messes rather than adding to them.

Has this proposal been referred to the Commonwealth Government for assessment under the EPBC Act?

Please ensure that past messes caused by Centennial are cleaned up. I have seen the collapse of the emplacement at Clarence and it is disturbing. It is disturbing that there is a giant wall of coal that has the potential to pollute otherwise pristine rivers for centuries. Rivers which thousands of people enjoy every year, and should support communities. Please ensure that all water is fully treated at the Cox river. Please ensure that unlined ash dams are remediated, capped, sealed or otherwise made 100% safe for all future.

I cannot see what recourse can be made for already damaged rock formations, cliff lines and swamps? Investigating how the promises made in past 'modifications' matches the current state and creating plans to 'make good' any gaps should be the current priority. It does not seem appropriate that further impacts should be approved until a gap analysis of the past has been completed and ensure that any difference in outcomes is first rectified.

The Angus Place mine extension and modification 5 should be considered together, along with cumulative impacts and a holistic plan to leave the mining areas in at least the state promised by the last 50 years of mining proposals. Water extraction should not exceed the capacity of treatment. Drinking water should not be polluted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'V' or 'M' shape with a horizontal line extending to the right.

I have made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I think it's a beautiful unique and ancient landscape that must be preserved for generations to come.

I think it is outrageous to time the submission over a long weekend knowing most people will not be aware of the urgency.

[REDACTED]

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
NSW. 2073

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

[REDACTED]

I have not made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Russ Gaul

[REDACTED]

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

As usual the scrutiny of the proposal does not properly protect the environment or prevent pollution which is what Australians want. It seems that the coal/gas industries are once again influencing the politicians and decision makers.

We need to move on, focus on economies that are sustainable, non polluting or destructive, and do not enhance climate change.

If the person truly was concerned about our country and its environment, these dates would not have been chosen. Just another politically influenced scheme.

The modifications do not sufficiently protect our environment and need to be withdrawn, and the proposal rewritten properly.

Modification 8 has the potential to damage our environment and impact our water resources and affect the animals, fish and fauna. Why are we allowing this?

Allowing toxic chemicals into our water system is sabotage. Not using the Springvale treatment project is outrageously incompetent.

The EPA has demonstrated the polluting potential of the modifications. If we don't adhere to the EPA conditions, then why do we have this department? It is obvious that the coal industry is influencing the politicians. We have to stop supporting coal and move to sustainable, non polluting alternatives. This is globally embarrassing.

Centennial Coal has consistently damaged and polluted our environment for greed. It is obvious they have no intention of changing their policy. We are supposed to be phasing out coal. Why are we even looking at this proposal?

The modifications will cause pollution problems. Additional water treatment facilities will be needed to prevent this. This is a no-brainer.

Stop supporting coal and focus on sustainable energies and economies.

RG

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Tony Maxwell

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hornsby, NSW. 2077

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To Whom It May Concern

My interest is mapping the biodiversity of the NSW native plant life.

This has included the Newnes Plateau and Gardens of Stone.

Centennial Coal's lovely long walling under the Carne West Swamp destroyed it and its flora.

So it looks like the vandals are at it again.

When will the NSW authorities have the guts to say no to further destruction?

The Gardens of Stone are a priceless jewel and a biodiversity wonderland.

We do not have the right to trash this place.

T. Maxwell

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Judy Rees

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

GLENALTA, SA. 5052

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To Whom It May Concern.

I am providing my submission mainly because I very strongly believe that NO new coal mines should be approved.

I cannot fathom how polluting any water is acceptable and using a massive amount of water to use the mine is shocking.

This place is wonderful, it must be protected and NO wetlands compromised ever.

It appears to have been a deliberate act and the public must be listened to.

To rush through these plans is not democratic and not within the law.

Why was this allowed to happen?

Centennial Coal must follow the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. Of all the modifications a polluting coal mine might desire, fossil fuel mining, exploration and their waste is of extreme concern to the public.

Withdraw all modifications and have it effectively assessed.

Lowering the water table and polluting the ground water will destroy the Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks, swamps, wetlands and the upper Coxs River and swamps.

The flora and fauna will be impacted of course and this is non- negotiable.

Allowing heavy metals to contaminate the Blue Mountains World Heritage area must not be allowed.

The Springvale mine and Angus Place Colliery must be stopped from releasing polluted mine water, the Springvale Water Treatment Project approved in 2017 is in place to protect Sydney drinking water.

I keep questioning why the mine can even believe this proposal would ever be considered.

The mine will decidedly impact the environment and already threatened plants and wildlife.

Modifications should all be controlled by the EPBC Act.

Fighting such potentially disastrous modifications through submissions appears democratic and yet the mine should not even be considering these actions and no expansions or new mines ever be considered in 2023.

Centennial Mines have breached to many environmental laws, their breaches are very difficult to read about.

It is extremely confronting that this company is still allowed to be operational.

The pollution alone, the massive extraction of water, the fact that Australia should not have any new coal mines is undeniable.

No modifications should be allowed and the previous fines should have been a lot more.

Angas Place and Western Coal Services have and will certainly cause unacceptable pollution in Wangcol Creek and Coxs River with their modifications.

Even an additional water treatment plant will not mitigate pollution and the damage to river

systems, flora and wildlife already under so much threat and reducing the water table, ground water even more.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping stroke extending to the left.

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Bellingen, NSW. 2454

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To whom it may concern

I am writing here in relation to my worries about the damage that is intended to take place the Gardens of stone region. I'm very concerned how these minings can just go ahead and make their 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 destroyed 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 amongst the whole plan of it. So if future waterfalls and swamps will be 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 severe, 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, Cocks River Swamp Review, from July 2018, was not very realistic. This drop in groundwater was observed to quickly dry out Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and associated swamps, as well as the Cocks 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 resources 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 Cocks River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbidgei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). this is to damaging 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 Cocks 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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cocks 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 Muggie Murumbidgee 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.

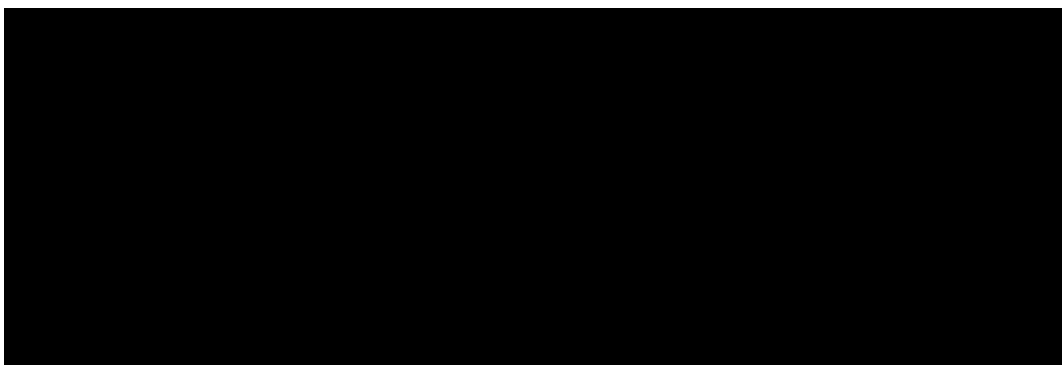
- In 2015, Centennial was fined \$15,000 when toxic coal sludge was illegally discharged from Springvale mine sediment storage ponds into downstream wetlands.
 - In 2011, Centennial acknowledged that the Federal Environment Minister considered its mining activities had had a significant impact on Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone, namely Narrow Swamp, East Worgan 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 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.

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



I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Christopher Ross

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Helensburgh , NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

My name is Chris Ross and I am making a submission as I am concerned about potential impacts on Gardens of Stone area. I am a regular visitor to the area.

Placing a proposal on exhibition for only 2 weeks and over a long weekend is inappropriate and seems to be trying to avoid people having the opportunity to make submissions. 14 days seems inadequate time for comment as well.

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed as part of the proposed Angus Place West mine expansion, rather than piecemeal through these modifications. The entire impact will be hidden if it is broken into too many smaller changes.

The shallow depth and pumps out proposed will draw down the water table as previously demonstrated with Angus place mod 5 and dry out swamps and wetlands causing flora and fauna dependent on these swamps to die out. Will this increase fire risk in the upcoming El Niño? These swamps are unique and it is important they are protected.

It is simply inappropriate to pump effluent water that is too contaminated for current water treatment system into streams leading to Sydney's drinking water catchment. Particularly coming into an El Niño. Damage to aquatic life is probable and impact in drinking water quality is not acceptable.

I am concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. I believe 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.

There is a long list of environmental incidents and harm from Centennial, they do not have the track record to demonstrate they will operate responsibly and should not be allowed to expand operations.

Additional water treatment for the contaminated water is clearly required and requires expert scrutiny to ensure that no impact will occur due to mine discharges.



I have not made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: No

Felicity Crombach

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Newcomb, VIC. 3219

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To Whom It May Concern

I am objecting to several points. I have visited the Gardens of Stone many times when I lived in NSW and it remains a favourite place in my memories.

Firstly, the lack of time for comment on these damaging proposals especially over a long weekend when I was busy with my grandchildren.

Secondly, the modification proposals should be part of the Angus Place West major project, not treated like a separate project

Thirdly, nationally endangered wetlands and swamps are so easily damaged but this could happen to much greater degrees by mining. Especially so because mining companies are notorious for not cleaning up after themselves.

Fourthly, and this is surely the thing that will knock this project on the head, Sydney's drinking water supplies are likely to be contaminated. The water the mining company proposes to dump can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant. If not there then where? I may not live in Sydney these days but I still visit and I have friends and relatives who live there.

Fifthly, the modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law. With Centennial's track record it is not safe to rely on its environmental report.

Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water. It would be a disaster if water escaped into the waterways due to insufficient treatment plants.

We need more time to comment. Some time was taken up with public holidays.

Modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services appear to be part of Centennial's plans to expand mining under Angus Place West – which has to go through a state significant development application. 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.

In 2018, Angus Place Mine Modification 5 was approved allowing pumping at a rate of 10 ML/day from mine workings (areas 800 and 900). Following this approval, the groundwater table dropped between 21 and 30 metres (Centennial Coal, Cocks River Swamp Review, July 2018, pg44). This drop in groundwater was observed to quickly dry out Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and associated swamps, as well as the Cocks River and swamps (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.

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 Cocks River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbidgei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). 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 Cocks 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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cocks 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.

We are concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. We 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. 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.

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7 Cronbach

I have not made a reportable political donation:

No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chatswood, NSW. 2067

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern

I am a regular visitor to this region. and in particular the Gardens of Stone. It's unique - flora, fauna, ecology and rock formations.

I am concerned that this mining project will have a significant detrimental impact on the environment, both locally and in the Sydney region. Companies including Centennial Coal do not have a good track record in protecting the environment in which they operate - ensuring NO pollution. Their controls are often inadequate leading to immediate and long term impact of the environment including water supplies. In addition when breaches happen there is a history of late reporting to EPA and little rectification of damage. The Garden of Stones is a unique and delicate environment and should NOT be put at further risk by these proposals.

The timing of public consultation is VERY poor - over a long weekend and during school holidays - and does not pass the "pub" test of fair and reasonable consultation.

The modifications should be part of the Angus Place West proposal

This proposal will affect the wetlands which are unique populated by diverse flora and fauna.

Contamination could lead to the destruction of the wetlands in both short and long term.

The proposals allow significant discharges of contaminated mine water into local catchment area.

This needs to be investigated further.

[REDACTED]

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Carly Dober

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reservoir , VIC. 3073

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I am a psychologist concerned that these plans will further degrade NSW's vulnerable and threatened biodiversity, ecosystems, and damage natural resources.
The lack of time for comment on these damaging proposals
The modification proposals should be part of the Angus Place West major project, not treated like a separate project
Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged
Sydney's drinking water supplies might be contaminated – highlight that the water they are proposing to dump can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant
The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law
Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon
Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

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The lack of time for comment on these damaging proposals
The modification proposals should be part of the Angus Place West major project, not treated like a separate project
Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged
Sydney's drinking water supplies might be contaminated – highlight that the water they are proposing to dump can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant
The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law
Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon
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Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon
Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

I have not made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

KATHLEEN Girdwood

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Katoomba, NSW. 2780

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I am a bushwalker and have walked the pagodas near the mine. I have been shocked by the cracks already developed through underground mining which are causing instability to the pagodas, which are unique in the world to this region. Draining the underground water will cause far greater damage to the pagodas and will probably lead to many more collapses. This additional stress will also effect the Clerestory Pagodas not far from the mine which again are world class.

An additional concern is that the water will ultimately go into Sydney's drinking water with all the pollutant minerals in the water.

I would expect that for a project of this size and effect on the community that the full 14 days consultation should have been signalled in advance giving the community and organisations the time to respond .

These modifications should be assessed in totality with the Angus West major project so the whole can be assessed rather than piecemeal.

Wetlands in the Newnes Plateau have been permanently damaged and destroyed due to mining. This would most likely be the case in this proposal .We can not allow any more wetlands to be permanently destroyed for short term money considerations

I believe that the proposal will most likely contaminate the Cox's River which flows into Warragambe Dam - the reservoir of Sydney's drinking water.

This proposal should be assessed under Federal legislation as it will impact on drinking water and rare and endangered plant species.

Centennial Coal has not had a good track record as far as compliance to its mining licences witness the collapse at the Clarence Mine coal waste storage and most recently the damage the Airly Mine has caused to the Mugii Murum - ban State Conservation Area

Greater consideration to water treatment processes and plants should be made in the submission to guarantee that water quality will not be affected

There should be no more mining under the Gardens of Stone and the present area because of the already horrific damage done by underground mining

Kate Girdwood

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

David Hufton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Helensburgh , NSW. 2508

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I am a conservationist...No discharge of mine wastewater into Blue Mtns National Park...It will destroy natural species in Cox's and other creeks & rivers

No...appalling abuse of fair process

Modifications for mine should be withdrawn..

Angus Place mine modifications will cause loss of threatened & Nationally listed plants & loss of natural water drawdown of water table.

Sydney water supply and Blue Mtns National Park should not have new dangerous, contaminated mine waste water discharged...A treatment plant for mine waste water must be used by the mine
..No contaminants heavy metals must be released into creeks and rivers

These modifications threaten Sydney's water supply and should be abandoned..

This 10ML/ day waste water threatens World Heritage Values of Blue Mtns National Park..

Threatened swamps will be polluted and negatively effected by these new mine modifications.

Centennial Coal has a terrible history of mine tailings dam failures discharging into Blue Mtns National Park & endangered nationally listed swamps negatively impacted & threatened

In 2012 2300 tonnes of coal released from Clarence colliery by Centennial Coal into Wollangambe River...causing irrevocable damage to Blue Mtns National Park.

Angus Place Mine must build a new waste water plant for additional mine modifications waste water treatment.

The Blue Mountains National Park needs to be prioritised instead of unnecessary expanded mine modifications..No Angus Place mine expansions..This threatens natural values and tourism values.



I have not made a reportable political donation:
[webform_submission:values:radio_button_yes_no_political_donations]

I would like my name withheld: No

Bijou Whitbread

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yangebup. 6164

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the Lithgow area for over ten years and have travelled 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.

Each time I see these beautiful pagodas, streams, waterfalls and swamps damaged I feel as though I have been personally injured. I appreciate it when my children wonder at how the rock formations look like a particular bird, boat or boot and feel that it is very short sighted to damage these formations for a relatively minor short term profit.

There are so few natural areas left for the generations to come and to continue to destroy the remaining natural wonders is short sighted and destructive.

- - -

I am a parent who enjoys taking my kids exploring in the Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area on weekends. I am worried about what this project might mean for the health of the Cocks River and this beautiful environment. My kids love the Gardens of Stone but I'm concerned that this mining project will have a long term impact on the environment and that mine water will pollute Sydney's drinking water supplies into the future.

Remember, your concerns must be written in your own words and to call for greater scrutiny of these modification proposals.

Submission as an objection

It is unfair to invite the public to comment prior to a long weekend. This is a ploy. The public need to be given a fair say and the public need more time to comment on the modification of the proposals. Modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services appear to be part of Centennial's plans to expand mining under Angus Place West – which has to go through a state significant development application.

The executive summary of the report for these modifications makes their connection to Centennial's expansion plans clear when it concludes that, "The proposed modification will ... safeguard the feasible recovery of the coal resource remaining at the mine."

The impacts of these modifications should be assessed in totality with the proposed Angus Place West mine expansion, rather than piecemeal through these modifications.

If approved, these modifications could also obscure the extent of impacts from the future Angus Place West proposal on national heritage in the new Gardens of Stone reserve. Modifications are supposed to allow for minor changes to approved major projects. These modifications could damage nationally endangered swamps and plants and drain water from streams in the new Gardens of Stone State Conservation Area. These modification proposals also propose to by-pass the \$120 million reverse osmosis mine water treatment plant and recommence the discharge of mine water into the Coxs River catchment. These changes are not minor matters.

By carving out these changes as modification requests, it seems that Centennial Coal is trying to get around the purposes of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

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.

In 2018, Angus Place Mine Modification 5 was approved allowing pumping at a rate of 10 ML/day from mine workings (areas 800 and 900). Following this approval, the groundwater table dropped between 21 and 30 metres (Centennial Coal, Coxs River Swamp Review, July 2018, pg44). 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 (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 resources 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 cumbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species).
Submission

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 contaminated part of the catchment downstream into the Cocks 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.

We are concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. We 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 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 Cocks 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 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.

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.

I had the privilege of bush walking through these pristine areas and feel passionately that enough is enough. The world is hell bent on destruction. We are so lucky in Australia to have such a hidden treasure. Please do not destroy the gardens of stones.

Byou Whitford

I have not made a reportable political donation:
[webform_submission:values:radio_button_yes_no_political_donations]

I would like my name withheld: Yes

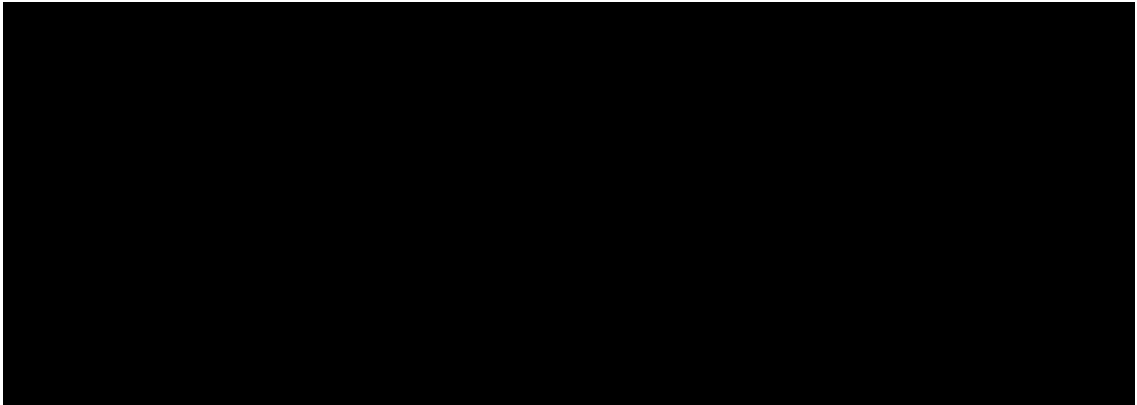
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

s



I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lawson, NSW. 2783

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I Trevor Brown . Who operate a tour group called Respite tours and I use this area as part of our tours.

We only have one chance to look after the land so we have to do it today. Tomorrow is to late.

Centennial Coal's mine modification proposals has been been dropped on us and we have had so little time to read it or give feed back so stop it now.

Brow Centennial Coal proposes mine could discharge water to Sydney's drinking water. Then it is to late.

Gardens of Stone is nest to it and that is bring in tourest every day with there money that employs locals and is serstanable.

Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged if it go's ahead.
Sydney's drinking water supplies might be = Stuffed

We need time to look at the preposel our get my family envolved in the submishen
Need time like all preposels.
If we damage the wet lands then we will never have them again.
What could I say to Stuff up sydney drinking water. Desarster.
I am not shour if it needs to go to Fedurgoverment ?
?

[REDACTED]

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

Neil Liddle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

TIGHES HILL, NSW. 2297

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I'd like the blatant disregard for environmental regulations to stop right now.

Lack of time for comment on these damaging proposals

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

Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged

Sydney's drinking water supplies might be contaminated (with 10ML/day of mine water that somehow can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant!)

The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law

Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon

Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

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The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law

Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon

Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'N' or 'B' with a vertical line above it.

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

Rachel Knowles

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Budgee Budgee, NSW. 2850

I am objecting to the proposal: Yes

To Whom It May Concern

I Live in the Mudgee area, which is 112 km from my place to Lithgow and the Garden Of Stones. You know it is an Australian Icon when you have visitors from overseas and its beauty, fauna flora and stone structures and they delay going back to Sydney so they can explore more of the Gardens you know that this place is sacred and has to remain this way without any negative changes.

Why? This kind of underbelly tactic is certainly a great way to alert more people to what has been done and they will act.

All wrong.

If goes ahead, we will see the loss of everything in the Garden Of Stone that we have always held close to our hearts. 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 Cocks River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species). 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 Cocks 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.

Do not do it.

Rachel Knowles

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

David Hufton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Helensburgh, NSW. 2508

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line.

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: Yes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NSW. 2010

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I object to this proposal for the following reasons.

- Nationally endangered wetlands and swamps could be damaged
- Sydney's drinking water supplies might be contaminated (with 10ML/day of mine water that somehow can't be treated at the specially built 40ML/day mine water treatment plant!)
- The modification proposals should be subjected to scrutiny under Federal environmental law
- Centennial's track record means its environmental report on these proposals should not be relied upon
- Another reverse osmosis treatment plant is needed right now to treat this additional mine water.

I have not made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

Andrew Solomon

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Katoomba, NSW. 2780

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in the Greater Blue Mountains area on and off for over 30 years and have travelled extensively throughout the Gardens of Stone region. I have a strong affinity with the natural beauty of the area.

I also am very cognisant of the delicate and unique ecosystems within the area. I believe the activities of Centennial Coal will be extremely detrimental to these ecosystems for generations to come, if not forever.

Modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services appear to be part of Centennial's plans to expand mining under Angus Place West – which has to go through a state significant development application.

The executive summary of the report for these modifications makes their connection to Centennial's expansion plans clear when it concludes that, "The proposed modification will ... safeguard the feasible recovery of the coal resource remaining at the mine."

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from mine workings (areas 800 and 900). Following this approval, the groundwater table dropped between 21 and 30 metres (Centennial Coal, Coks River Swamp Review, July 2018, pg44). This drop in groundwater was observed to quickly dry out Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and associated swamps, as well as the Coks River and swamps (Lithgow Environment Group, pers. comm. 4 Oct, 2023).

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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

I am concerned the modifications have not been referred for Commonwealth assessment under the EPBC Act. We 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.

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- 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.

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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.

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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 Coxs River headwaters that would receive this discharge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Solomon'.

I have made a reportable political donation:
No

I would like my name withheld: No

Michael Holt

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sydney, NSW. 2021

I am objecting to the proposal:
Yes

I have been a regular visitor to The Gardens of Stone area over the last 25 years.
I have seen this area in its previously undamaged state and am appalled at the present degradation and destruction that has been allowed to take place to the area.
Please stop any prevent any further damage to the area by irresponsible coal mining practices and also retain the natural values of the area where possible by restricting over visitation by commercial enterprise.

No

YES

As a very frequent visitor to this area I have seen the extensive damage that has been done causing fracture of bordering pagodas.

The draining creeks and swamps are valuable survival habitats for all the wildlife of the area and must be protected.

Please protect this water source for the population.

With the uncertainty of future Climate Change weather no risk to the water supply should exist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Holt', with a stylized, cursive script.

I have made a reportable political donation:

I would like my name withheld: No

Bradley Smith

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Katoomba, NSW. 2780

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

I occasionally travel to the Gardens of Stone for recreation, and am concerned about the impacts of this project.

I object to the exhibition of these modifications proposals on mining consents that were timed to coincide with the October long weekend.

The exhibition is unreasonable because the public has been given the minimum time of only 14 days to review and then comment on these complicated proposals.

These modifications should be part of the Angus Place West state significant development. The dewatering is simply the first stage of that mining proposal. Splitting this out as a modification is mischievous.

Damage to nationally significant wetlands is a major risk from Angus Place Modification 8 – especially given Centennial's long record of destroying endangered wetlands, and its failure to predict swamp damage arising from its mining operations.

If the proposed Angus Place modification 8 is approved, groundwater drawdown could cause irreversible damage to Long Swamp and other nationally endangered wetlands located along Lambs and Kangaroo Creeks. Nationally endangered plants will also be affected.

I'm also concerned that the modifications will harm water quality of the Coxs River.

The discharges proposed will have a negative impact on water quality in the Sydney drinking water catchment. It will also harm aquatic ecosystems, especially macroinvertebrates, and be the predominant flow in Wangcol Creek at LDP0001 entry point.

Adding mine water to a highly polluted element of the Wangcol Creek catchment will push more metals and salts downstream into the Coxs River and ultimately into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

Due to significant impacts on water resources, nationally endangered species and ecosystems, and World Heritage, these modifications should be controlled actions under the EPBC Act.

Centennial is not a fit and proper person to operate in this environment.

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.

[webform_submission:values:submission_other_topic]

Burst

I have made a reportable political donation: No

I would like my name withheld: No

Keith Muir

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Katoomba, NSW. 2780

I am objecting to the proposal:

Yes

To whom it may concern,

I am objecting to the proposed modification 8 for Angus Place and modification 5 for Western Coal Services. I have worked to protect the Gardens of Stone region and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area for over 30 years and have a close attachment to these areas. These modifications merit closer scrutiny than is possible under the modification process because they will damage matters of national heritage and pollute the Coxs River.

The exhibition period started on the Friday before the long weekend and every Australian deserves public holidays off. Exhibition periods need to be extended when they fall over such long weekends by the addition of days to cover the holiday period.

There are three interrelated modifications on exhibition affecting the Gardens of Stone conservation area and the World Heritage Area. It is unfair and unreasonable to expect the public to be able to absorb the details of these proposals, integrate the issues and make considered submissions on all three. In fact it is close to impossible.

It is possible that the timing and release of these modifications is part of a deliberate strategy by Centennial Coal to avoid scrutiny.

The modifications 8 Angus Place, 5 Western Coal Services and 9 Springvale should not be approved in this piecemeal fashion. As the executive summary of the modification report for Angus Place and Western Coal Services explains that these modifications are a necessary activity for the development of the state significant Angus Place West proposal. The environmental impacts of these modifications are clearing part of the proposed major project activity.

The environmental damage that these modifications will cause shall obscure the future impacts of the Angus Place West proposal. The modifications will damage nationally endangered swamps and plants, as well as pollute the Coxs River. Centennial Coal then can claim that its Angus Place West proposal will have no additional impact. Centennial is trying to get around the intent and provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

If these modifications can't be withdrawn or refused, then I request modification proposals receive thorough scrutiny, including by the Federal Government, 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.

The proposed pumping will lower the groundwater table by up to 30 metres. Pumping under modification 5 lowered groundwater by this extent. This lowering of the groundwater table was reported by Centennial in 2018 in its Coxs River Swamp review. The review, however, did not take account of far-field impacts of such pumping. These impacts follow fracture zones and creeks follow

these zones.

It is a certainty that the damage experienced to the swamps with the pumping under modification 5 will be experienced under modification 8. Modifications will cause regional drawdown of near-surface groundwater, damaging Kangaroo and Lambs Creeks and swamps, as well as the upper Cocks River and its swamps. Nationally endangered plants may also be harmed, including *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp everlasting), *Pultenaea glabra*, *Kunzea cumbagei*, *Veronica blakleyi*, *Grevillea acanthifolia*, *Gentianella cunninghamii*, *Prasophyllum australe* and Latham's Snipe (a rare migratory bird species).

I find it breathtaking that Centennial Coal has proposed discharge of mine water into Cocks River at a 350µS/cm standard at Wangcol Creek. The modifications defeat the purpose of the \$120 Springvale Water Treatment Project that was to eliminate mine water discharges from Springvale Mine and Angus Place colliery.

By adding saline mine water to the Western Coal Services area and then to Wangcol Creek, Centennial is pushing more mine water into a highly polluted area. The addition of mine water will push more pollution out of this reach of Wangcol Creek. It is a fundamental principle of environmental management to avoid addition of water into a polluted area. Approval of this proposed discharge at LDP001 is likely to flush out more heavy metals from that catchment downstream into the Cocks River, a key part of Sydney's water catchment and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

The Angus Place mine modification and Western Coal Services modification meet the definition of "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. Proposal to discharge ten megalitres a day of polluted mine water is part of a large development, Angus Place West major project and is in itself a large coal mining development. It will damage a long reach of the Cocks River catchment by pushing more pollution out of Wangcol Creek catchment and so will cause a significant impact on a water resource. It is also an unwise proposal as it goes against good water management practices of keeping highly polluted areas as dry as possible.

The impacts on the Cocks River and the World Heritage Area must be considered. The proposed groundwater drawdown also alters the Sydney Water supply catchment and that too must be considered under the EPBC Act.

The lowering of near-surface groundwater aquifers through pumping under Angus Place modification 8 will damage nationally endangered plants and swamps. These impacts are certain to occur and they occurred with modification 5 Angus Place. These impacts must be assessed.

The modifications should be controlled actions under the EPBC Act due to likely damage to Sydney's water catchment, a World Heritage Area and nationally endangered plants.


Centennial Coal has a continuously poor track record of environmental management. This year the company mined outside its approved area at Airly Mine, a Class 1 reportable offence under NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act. Last year 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. 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.

The damage caused to nationally endangered swamps is legend. The company paid \$28 million in offsets and a \$1.45 million in an enforceable undertaking and if these modifications are approved

the damage will continue. Legal censure and financial penalty does not the damage. Inaccurate predictions and non-compliance, environmental harm and damage, Centennial does not operate responsibly in the Gardens of Stone region. These modification proposals must be refused. These modifications to the Angus Place and Western Coal Services projects should be withdrawn. Sydney's drinking water supplies must be protected. Centennial Coal should seek to install a reverse osmosis treatment plant at Angus Place Mine as part of the major project for Angus Place West. The brine from the reverse osmosis treatment plant should be pumped to the Springvale Water Treatment Plant site for processing and appropriate disposal.

Discharges from any future reverse osmosis treatment plant at Angus Place should have a salinity of $30\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ so as to have a neutral effect on the salinity of the unpolluted Cocks River headwaters. It is bitterly disappointing that Centennial Coal has chosen to by-pass the \$120 million water treatment plant and to further damage matters of national heritage. These modifications should be refused to retain the integrity of planning process for mining proposals in NSW.

Thank you for the opportunity (such as it is) to comment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Muir'. The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'Muir'.