



Ref: DD_17_217_1528

31/03/06

Mr Colin Phillips
Environmental Planning Officer
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Colin

Submissions to Lamberts Gully and Angus Place Extension Applications

In response to your request of 10 March 2006, please find our reply on the submissions received for the Lamberts Gully and Angus Place Extension Project Applications.

Subsequent to your further advice that Council wishes to discuss a contribution, Centennial will liaise direct with Council on this and advise of progress and outcomes.

For any further information please contact me on telephone 49 358 924.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Donna Dryden'.

Donna Dryden
Group Environmental Manager

Encl.

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Centennial Coal
Proposed Angus Place Colliery Extension
Response to Submissions
March 2006

Department: Forests NSW
Issue: *Inclusion of fire prevention, asset protection and communication measures*
Response: A Bushfire Management Plan will be developed for any surface infrastructure on State Forest land in consultation with Forest NSW.

Department: Department of Primary Industries
Issue: *Preparation of a site rehabilitation/closure plan*
Response: Angus Place Colliery will comply with the requirements of the DPI with respect to developing a site rehab/closure plan through the MOP process.

Issue: *Truck movements and noise*
Response: Centennial will implement the Truck Noise Management Plan as previously detailed and provided to DOP and DEC

Department: Department of Environment and Conservation
Issue: *Threatened Species – 9 matters raised*
Response: These matters have been addressed under separate cover and reference should be made to Centennial's letter dated 8/03/06 reference number DD_12_166_1522.

Issue: *New licence required*
Response: This requirement is acknowledged and will be actioned as appropriate.

Department: City of Lithgow Council
Issue: *Visual and noise impacts from coal haulage and use of the road by Delta Electricity*
Response: The Wallerawang *private* coal haul road was built to remove the need to haul coal on the public road system. To Centennial's knowledge the road was built with development consent, Centennial has used it in accordance with the hours of operation contemplated by that consent and no landscaping was required. The current proposal does not change the visual impact of the road.

Ash trucks were not operating when the background noise assessment was undertaken by Angus Place Colliery ("APC"). APC understands that the ash trucks run in "campaigns" and consequently it is difficult for APC to account for that noise.

As indicated in the EA APC will implement a detailed noise reduction strategy to achieve the best noise results from our activities on the private road. In addition APC will not truck coal at night-time, hence there will be no cumulative noise effect during this most sensitive time.

APC does not have any discretion over Delta Electricity's use of the road for ash emplacement. Delta uses the part of the road which it owns. APC has committed to a range of noise reduction measures for its activities, however is not in a position to require any similar noise reduction measures from Delta's activities.

Department: Department of Natural Resources
Issue: *Precautionary Principle for subsidence approval*
Response: Since the time of application the Inter Agency Committee has considered the subsidence impacts and given staged and conditional approval to the Mine. The Mine has prepared the required further plans in consultation with the relevant departments. The Inter Agency Committee will have an ongoing role in the subsidence approvals at the Mine.

Issue: *Part 5 Licence Required*
Response: This requirement is acknowledged and will be actioned as appropriate.

Department: Sydney Catchment Authority
Issue: *Cracking in the bed of Kangaroo Creek*
Response: The cracking that occurred relative to longwall 920 was in accordance with predictions made in the s128 application to the Department of Mineral Resources. The Colliery undertakes regular detailed monitoring to assess the results of mining and comparison to predictions. The cracking which has been identified and reported is of a minor nature and has not caused any adverse impact.

Other Stakeholder: Western Region Development Committee
Issue: *Additional traffic on Public Roads*
Response: The proposal is to continue operation of the existing mine and will not result in any additional employment beyond the current numbers, consequently no additional traffic increase is anticipated.

Other Stakeholder: Chris Jonkers, Julie Favell, Connor Favell
Issue: *Human health issues – asbestos dump and landfill*
Response: Angus Place Colliery is not responsible for an asbestos dump and the dump is not on any mining lease. In the past the owner/operator of this facility inadvertently encroached on to freehold land owned by Angus Place Colliery. A boundary adjustment has been enacted to rectify this encroachment.

A landfill owned and operated by Lithgow City Council is not related to Angus Place Colliery or any of its mining leases, and therefore is not required to be assessed in the EA.

Issue: *Death of Peat Swamps and EEC*
Response: There is no evidence that any damage to the peat swamps is a result of longwall mining at Angus Place. On the contrary, monitoring and assessment of the swamps by qualified ecologists have concluded that the underground mining operations are not having a measurable effect on the swamps. Changes in soil moisture, stream flow and surface storages closely correlate to rainfall.

Issue: *Pollution from Hydraulic Oils*
Response: Use of all equipment and mining methods is in accordance with relevant DPI approvals and current best practice within the industry.

Issue: *Other groundwater users*
Response: Angus Place colliery is not aware of any *licensed* groundwater users in the immediate area.

Issue: *Traffic Increases*
Response: This application does not propose any traffic increases.

Issue: *Surface and Groundwater pollution – threat to Sydney Water Supply*
Response: The matters raised are mainly relevant to Council's landfill proposal. Comments on Angus Place Colliery have been addressed in a separate reply.

Issue: *EECs*
Response: It is not considered that this matter is relevant to the Lamberts Gully proposal.

Issue: *Temperature inversions*
Response: The proposal does not seek night-time activities.

Other Stakeholder: Matt Mushalik
Issue: *Global Warming*
Response: The Colliery does not consider it appropriate to comment on Mr Mushalik's opinion on global warming. The greenhouse emissions of APC were not a matter requiring consideration by the Director-General. However for the information of the Department, coal seams in the Lithgow area are generally low in methane content which is typically the main contributor to greenhouse emissions from mining.

Other Stakeholder: Jenny Cummings
Issue: *Noise from the Haul Road*
Response: The Colliery has spoken with Mrs Cummings a number of times and will continue to liaise and consult with local Lidsdale residents.

The Colliery has proposed a number of mitigation measures in the EA to

reduce the noise from its trucks. Mrs Cummings has specifically discussed night time truck usage with APC and we have reiterated that we will not haul during the "night-time".

The use of air brakes and travelling at the speed limit are matters that have been recently reinforced with drivers. These two matters are now a part of all truck driver inductions.

Other

Stakeholder:

Blue Mountains Conservation Society

Issue:

Groundwater and Endangered Swamps

Response:

A thorough groundwater assessment has been undertaken. Matters relative to endangered species have been addressed with DEC. The BMCS has been an integral stakeholder in consultation on the development of the recent SMP application. A number of meetings have occurred and a range of correspondence exchanged answering questions of concern to the BMCS.

Centennial Coal
Proposed Lamberts Gully Extension
Response to Submissions
March 2006

Department:	Forests NSW
Issue:	<i>Inclusion of fire prevention, asset protection and communication measures</i>
Response:	A Bushfire Management Plan will be developed for the site.
Department:	Department of Primary Industries
Issue:	<i>Mining Operations Plan</i>
Response:	A MOP will be lodged prior to mining in those areas not currently covered by a MOP.
Issue:	<i>Reject Emplacement Areas</i>
Response:	Appropriate applications under s126 will be made by the Mine prior to the emplacement of reject material within the REA.
Issue:	<i>Drainage System – catchment capacity</i>
Response:	There is only a very small area of clean catchment above the future mine area. Wherever practical clean water will be adequately diverted from entering the working area. Although there is an increase in dirty water catchment, there will be no additional stormwater loading entering the pollution control system. As described in Section 7.1.1, the extension will operate in the same manner as the existing open cut and retain stormwater in inlet sumps. This water is used for dust suppression and on site water demand.
Issue:	<i>Topsoil Management</i>
Response:	Topsoil stockpile will be maintained and will have appropriate erosion controls. Details of the location and the controls will be provided through the AEMR or MOP process.
Issue:	<i>Revegetation – seed collection and hollow logs</i>
Response:	The original Lamberts Gully MOP was modified to allow for the spreading of larger cleared timber, including any hollow logs, over the prepared rehabilitation areas. Centennial's native seed collection contractor currently working at Charbon Colliery will be used to collect Capertee Stringybark at Lamberts Gully. The contractor uses both direct sowing of native seed collected as well as nursery raising of tubestock. Both methods will be used at Lamberts Gully.
Department:	Department of Environment and Conservation
Issue:	<i>Threatened Species - revegetation monitoring and maintenance</i>
Response:	Springvale Colliery will undertake revegetation monitoring over a longer period and will implement a maintenance programme including weed control.

Issue:	<i>S87/90 permits not required</i>
Response:	The Mine acknowledges that under the Part 3A process the above permits will not require a separate approval. The Archaeologist has since re-inspected the identified sites and tagged Site 7 45-1-0218 to ensure that it is not inadvertently disturbed by the future mining works. No identified sites will now be disturbed by the proposed extension to the open cut.
Department:	City of Lithgow Council
Issue:	<i>Cumulative impacts on Blackmans Flat</i>
Response:	The Lamberts Gully EA and subsequent responses by Centennial have adequately addressed cumulative noise, blasting and dust implications on the residents of Blackmans Flat
Issue	<i>Rehabilitation Plans</i> Rehabilitation plans are being prepared as part of the MOP to be approved by DPI-MR and progress against these plans will be reported in the AEMR. Copies of the AEMR are provided to Council.
Issue	<i>Formulation of a Community Consultative Committee</i> Springvale supports the formulation of a CCC
Department:	Department of Natural Resources
Issue:	<i>NSW Farm Dams Policy</i>
Response:	The Colliery concurs with the Department's conclusion that licensing is not required for on-site dams.
Issue:	<i>Rivers and Foreshores Improvement Act</i>
Response:	The Colliery will include the Department in future Government department consultation and particularly on the circulation of the AEMR.
Issue:	<i>Clean Water Diversion</i>
Response:	Wherever practical clean water will be adequately diverted from entering the working area.
Issue:	<i>Minimise disturbance to Watercourses</i>
Response:	As previously advised, the Rehabilitation Plan presented in the EA includes the rehabilitation of a section of the old Huon No 6 cut which is currently being used for disposal of coal reject in accordance with an approved plan under S126 of the Mining Act.
Department:	Sydney Catchment Authority
Issue:	<i>Relocation of Watercourses</i>
Response:	No watercourses require relocation as part of the mine extension. Drainage is required to continue along the old Huon No 6 cut as this enters the old mining void which is used as a water supply storage for both the Washery and the Mount Piper Power Station's ash emplacement.

Issue:	<i>Revegetation</i>
Response:	The current Lamberts Gully Open Cut has been in operation for only 17 months. As stated in the EA, the first sowing is scheduled for 2006. Topsoil is always prestripped in advance of overburden removal and used in the rehabilitation program. Methods to improve ground cover will be investigated.
Issue:	<i>Water Management System</i>
Response:	The water management system at the Springvale Services site is not complex. All dirty water drains reports to the main pollution control ponds near the site access. This represents the only licence discharge point for the site. All dirty water in the open cut reports to inpit sumps which is then available for re-use. All water contained in the old Huon No 6 void, which is managed by Delta Electricity (subject to an Environment Protection Licence), is used as a primary water supply source for the Washery and Delta's Ash Emplacement.
Other Stakeholder:	Western Region Development Committee
Issue:	<i>Changes to Current traffic arrangements</i>
Response:	The proposal will not result in any changes to the current traffic arrangements.
Other Stakeholder:	Lithgow Environment Group and Chris Jonkers, Julie Favell, Connor Favell (answered together as the issues and submissions are essentially the same)
Issue:	<i>Community Consultation</i>
Response:	Community consultation has been undertaken throughout the operation of Lamberts Gully and this was continued for the current proposal.
Issue:	<i>Social Equity and Justice</i>
Response:	The Lamberts Gully mine will provide social benefits such as: • Ongoing employment for 30 people with a total annual payroll of \$3.6 Million; • Payment to the State Government of a total of \$4.5 Million in coal royalties directly attributed to the coal to be extracted from the Lamberts Gully Open Cut extension; • Total annual extraction costs including fuel, maintenance, services, and external contractors in excess of \$4 Million; • Certainty of fuel supply to Delta Electricity for domestic electricity generation.
Issue:	<i>Compliance with Legislation</i>
Response:	The Mine believes it has made its application and operates the Mine in accordance with relevant legislation. The proposal meets all planning requirements.

Issue:	<i>Hazardous Development – asbestos dump and landfill</i>
Response:	The Mine is not responsible for an asbestos dump and the dump is not on any mining lease.
Issue:	<i>Traffic noise and headlight glare along the Mount Piper Haul Road</i>
Response:	This application does not propose any activities relative to Mount Piper Haul Road. This road is owned and operated by another company under its own development consent.
Issue:	<i>Surface and Groundwater pollution</i>
Response:	The assessment of threatened species has been discussed with DEC. DEC has also investigated a claim that Long Swamp has been degraded by Angus Place Colliery and found the claim to be anomalous. There is no potential for toxic leachate from the proposed mine extension. The proposal relates to open cut operations only. All references made by LEG to subsidence and longwall mining are not relevant to this proposal.
Issue:	<i>Environmental Issues</i>
Response:	Hydraulic oil – water is pumped from the mine to the surface where it is regularly tested for soluble oil content. Aquifer recharge and pollution – the proposal does not seek any effect on the claimed recharge zones. A comprehensive aquifer impact assessment has been undertaken. Weeds – a regular programme of weed control is in place on Colliery owned land. Temperature inversions – the proposal does not seek to alter any activities during the night-time period.
Issue	<i>More Detailed Monitoring Required</i> All of Centennial Coal operations carry out thorough environmental monitoring in accordance with development consent and license requirements as a minimum.
Issue:	<i>Cumulative Impacts</i>
Response:	Cumulative impacts are taken into account in the assessment process and are adequately addressed in the EA and subsequent information provided by Centennial
Other Stakeholder:	Wayne and Michelle Vincent
Issue:	<i>Blasting damage and dust deposition</i>
Response:	Blast and dust monitoring results show that the mine operates within current limit conditions
Other Stakeholder:	Blue Mountains Conservation Society
Issue:	<i>Groundwater and Endangered Swamps</i>

Response: A thorough groundwater assessment has been undertaken. Comments relevant to Angus Place Colliery have been addressed in a separate response.

Other

Stakeholder: Matt Mushalik

Issue: *Global Warming*

Response: The Colliery does not consider it appropriate to comment on Mr Mushalik's opinion on global warming. The greenhouse emissions of Lamberts Gully Mine were not a matter requiring consideration by the Director-General.