



CHAPTER 7.0

Stakeholder Engagement



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT- AIRLY MINE EXTENSION PROJECT



7.0 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

7.1 Introduction

This chapter identifies the engagement strategies of both the existing operation and the Project, including an overview of the Airly Mine's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. It details the strategies and results of Government and community consultation during the preparation of the EIS. Key issues raised during this consultation and where these issues are addressed in the EIS are identified.

This chapter specifically responds to the DGRs, which provide the following in regard to stakeholder engagement:

The Director-General's requirements

During the preparation of the EIS, you must consult with relevant local, State and Commonwealth Government authorities, service providers, community groups and affected landowners.

In particular you must consult with the:

- Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Office of Environment and Heritage (including the Heritage Branch)
- Environment Protection Authority
- Division of Resources and Energy within the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
- Department of Primary Industries (including the NSW Office of Water, Forestry NSW, NSW Agriculture, Fisheries NSW and Catchments and Lands (Crown Lands Division))
- Transport for NSW (including the Centre for Transport Planning, Roads and Maritime Services)
- NSW Health
- Hawkesbury- Nepean Catchment Authority
- Lithgow City Council
- Delta Electricity
- relevant Aboriginal stakeholders.

The EIS must describe the consultation process and the issues raised, and identify where the design of the development has been amended in response to these issues. Where amendments have not been made to address an issue, justification should be provided.

7.2 Engagement Strategy and Stakeholder Identification

7.2.1 Engagement Strategy

Centennial Airly places utmost importance on stakeholder consultation and engagement. Centennial Airly recognises that effective consultation and engagement is a critical element of its operations and projects and underpins its 'licence to operate' in both social and regulatory spheres.

Effective consultation and engagement is inclusive of all stakeholders and include landholders, residents, local communities, indigenous groups, non-government organisations, local, state and federal government, staff and workforce.

The Airly Mine Extension Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been prepared to specifically cover the consultation and engagement activities that are required for the life of the Project. The purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to provide a consistent management framework to identify and consult with stakeholders with an interest in the Project and to ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting of community initiated enquiries is developed. The strategy within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes the need for



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ongoing consultation with local and state government authorities, neighbouring landholders and surrounding community, Aboriginal groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Desired outcomes of the stakeholder engagement strategy are to:

- maintain and continue to develop trust in Centennial Airly's operations with neighbouring residents, local communities, regional community, Indigenous groups, non-government organisations, government and other stakeholders through comprehensive and well-timed engagement and communication
- contribute to good working relationships with neighbouring residents, local communities, regional community, Indigenous groups, non-government organisations, government by proactively anticipating and addressing concerns about the Project
- respond to community concerns by incorporating community feedback into periodic internal and external reviews of environmental compliance, community engagement and Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- contribute to the development of social capital and capacity by sponsoring and giving to local community organisations.

The consultation strategy process involved the following:

- preparation and submission of a Briefing Paper describing the Project to request DGRs
- issue of the DGRs (Section 1.6) on 6 November 2012 and the revised DGRs on 6 February 2014, which is publically available at the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (NSW P&E) website
- placement of advertisements in local and regional newspapers (Lithgow Mercury and the Mudgee Guardian) to make the community aware of the Project. Dates of advertisements include: 22 October 2012- 16 November 2012; 30 September 2013- 11 October 2013; 28 October 2013- 8 November 2013; 25 November 2013- 6 December 2013; 3 February 2014- 14 February 2014)
- holding face-to-face consultations, site inspections and further discussions with key stakeholders/authorities, providing additional information as required to address any key issues
- holding public information and 'question and answer' sessions
- preparing letter/ newsletter/ information flyer drop-offs in the local community
- providing Project updates at Airly Mine's website
- conducting specific consultation with the Aboriginal Community in accordance with appropriate legislation and guidelines
- addressing any feedback received following consultation within the EIS
- submitting final EIS to NSW P&E and make it publically available for submissions from the community, government agencies, and other stakeholders
- responding to any submissions once the EIS is available for public comment.



7.2.2 Stakeholder Identification

Stakeholder engagement and consultation are determined by a range of factors which include but are not limited to:

- scope of the proposed Project
- the nature of the Project
- statutory notification/consultation requirements associated with the Project
- other notification/consultation requirements that have been set out
- those who are likely to be directly affected by the project (areas of affectation may be by geographic or issue basis)
- those who are interested and whose involvement is likely to be important to this matter
- level of complexity of the overall process or the issues concerned.

The key stakeholders identified and consulted with as part of the consultation and engagement strategy were the following groups.

- Local, State or Commonwealth government authorities, including the:
 - Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
 - Department of Planning and Infrastructure
 - Office of Environment and Heritage
 - Environment Protection Authority
 - Division of Resources and Energy within the Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services
 - NSW Health
 - Hawkesbury- Nepean Catchment Management Authority
 - Lithgow City Council.
- The Special Monitoring Committee
- The Local Aboriginal Land Councils and Aboriginal stakeholder groups
- The public, including community groups and adjoining landowners
- Other established forums in the area such as the Capertee and District Progress Association, Capertee Valley Alliance, Glen Davis Environmental Group, Glen Alice Community Group.



7.3 Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

The Project's stakeholder consultation and engagement were undertaken in accordance with a dedicated Airly Mine Extension Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan. A number of avenues were used for the purpose, as follows:

- Airly Mine's Special Monitoring Committee Meetings (Section 7.3.1)
- Community General Information Sessions (Section 7.3.2)
- Community Technical Information Sessions (Section 7.3.3)
- Social Impact Assessment Consultation (Section 7.3.4)
- Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultation (Section 7.3.5)
- Government Agency Consultation (Section 7.3.6).

7.3.1 Special Monitoring Committee Meetings

The Project was discussed with Airly Mine's Special Monitoring Committee at the announcement of the Project on 10 October 2012; and during EIS preparation specialist assessments on 13 March 2013.

The Special Monitoring Committee is a condition of current consent and has provided an opportunity to discuss the Project, results of ongoing environmental monitoring and an opportunity to discuss specific issues relating to Airly Mine. The contents and the timing of the Community Technical Information Sessions (Section 7.3.3) were discussed and agreed at the Special Monitoring Committee meetings.

The minutes of the Special Monitoring Committee meetings are available to the public via the Airly Mine's website (www.centennialcoal.com.au/project/airlyextension).

The Airly Mine Special Monitoring Committee comprises of the following external stakeholders.

Voting Members

- Lithgow City Council (Chair)
- Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services
- Office of Environment and Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Capertee & District Progress Association
- Colong Foundation for Wilderness
- Colo Committee

Non-Voting Participants

- Capertee Valley Alliance Inc.
- Capertee Valley Environmental Group Inc.
- Blue Mountains Conservation Society.



7.3.2 Community General Information Sessions

Consultation with the local community has been undertaken via community general information sessions as follows:

- Community Information Session at Capertee on 3 November 2012
- Community Information Session at Glen Alice on 10 November 2012
- Community Information Session at Wallerawang on 17 November 2012.

The Project was discussed at other events as follows:

- *Celebrate Lithgow* on 25 November 2012
- *Rylstone Show* on 23 February 2013 for Rylstone Community
- *Capertee Valley Catchment Group Meeting* on 12 March 2013 Capertee Valley Community.

The community was informed of the meetings and information sessions via newsletter and flyer drop-offs to individual dwellings, material sent to community organisations, and placement on Centennial Airly's website.

These information sessions and meetings were undertaken at the commencement of the EIS preparation stage and were restricted to the dissemination of general information on the Project design, timing of the EIS completion and submission of the EIS to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure for assessment.

7.3.3 Community Technical Information Sessions

Four technical information sessions were facilitated in the Project for the purpose of providing the community an opportunity to understand the environmental impact assessment process, key technical assessments undertaken, methodologies used in the technical assessments and outcomes of the assessments. These technical information sessions were organised following completion of technical assessments undertaken for the Project, informed by the DGRs and the results of a Risk Assessment which directed the scope of technical studies to enable adequate assessment and management of key issues (Chapter 9.0, Section 9.1).

The dates of the technical sessions, the topics covered are listed below. The technical sessions provided an opportunity for the community raise specific concerns relating to the topics discussed, ask questions and discuss aspects of the technical studies. As with other consultation sessions, the technical sessions were advertised to the community.

The presentations and subsequent questions and answers discussed in each technical session were made available to the community via Airly Mine's website (www.centennialcoal.com.au). The questions and answer documents for all technical sessions can be found in Appendix M.

Information gathered during these technical sessions have assisted in the further refinement of the Project design and the development of appropriate management and mitigation strategies to address issues of concern and relevance to the local community.

Session 1 – 13 October 2013 (Venue: Airly Mine)

The following areas were discussed:

- mine design and the minimisation of impact through mining method selection and performance management
- the stability of the mine workings post mining and the long term impact of subsidence
- the impact of subsidence on groundwater and surface water within the Project Application Area and surrounding properties



- water in-flow into mine workings post mining and the impact on the surrounding catchment
- the use of water on site and the impact on the surrounding catchment.

Session 2 – 10 November 2013 (Venue: Glen Alice Hall)

The following areas were discussed:

- a review of aquatic ecology studies carried out to date and likely impacts mining on aquatic ecology. Impacts from subsidence, and mine water discharge
- findings from studies conducted and impacts on terrestrial flora and fauna systems from proposed mining activities
- presentation of the findings of the cultural heritage studies and likely impacts from proposed mining on European and Aboriginal heritage
- sharing of local knowledge regarding terrestrial flora and fauna and Aboriginal and European cultural heritage sites
- ongoing monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial ecology, and cultural heritage sites during the life of the mine

Session 3 – 8 December 2013 (Venue: Capertee Hall)

The following areas were discussed:

- the statutory frameworks for setting assessment criteria for noise, air quality and visual impact assessments
- methodologies used to assess the impacts and accuracy of predictions. Potential noise, air quality and visual impacts from the operation of the mine
- the decommissioning and rehabilitation strategy to be employed during and at the conclusion of the project life, including discussions of the proposed final landform.

Session 4 – 16 February 2014 (Venue: Airly Mine)

The fourth information session included:

- an overview of the Project, specialist consultants' topics presented to date through the community information sessions and, how community feedback provided in the first three technical sessions has been considered by Centennial Airly, and incorporated into the EIS, as appropriate
- Presentation of Social and Economic Impact Assessments undertaken for the Project.

7.3.3.1 *Summary of Key Outcomes from Technical Assessments*

The following dot points summarise the key outcomes of the technical assessments prepared in support of the EIS, and Table 7.1 provides details of all issues raised. Table 7.1 also provides information on how the issues raised were addressed in the EIS:

- subsidence can be limited to a maximum of 125 mm in previously unmined areas (except in the New Hartley Shale Mine Interaction Zone)
- negligible impacts are predicted to surface and groundwater systems
- terrestrial and aquatic ecology will not be impacted due to the proposed mine design and avoidance of potential impacts



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- no impact to European or Aboriginal heritage sites identified within the Project Application Area
- limited visual impact from the Project
- the predicted noise levels at the non-project related sensitive receptors are less than the Project's project specific noise criterion
- the air quality parameters (deposited dust, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) predicted for the Project at the non-project related sensitive receptors fall within the respective statutory limits
- the noise, air quality, terrestrial ecology, cultural heritage and visual impact assessments undertaken for the two REA locations investigated in the Project, comprising the proposed and the alternative location, confirm that the proposed REA location (Section 4.8.3) will result in less environmental impacts than the alternative REA location (Section 12.4.3) investigated.

Table 7.1: Summary of Key Outcomes from Technical Assessments

Technical Assessment	Issues	How these are addressed in the EIS
Subsidence	▪ Damage to cliffs, pagodas, gorges (e.g. Grotto). ▪ Impact on ecology.	▪ Mine design to cause negligible impact. ▪ Mining zone concept. ▪ Performance monitoring and adaptive management. ▪ New Hartley Shale Mine Interaction Zone already impacted – minimal additional impact. ▪ Increased cliff protection zone. ▪ Terrestrial ecology assessment confirms predicted levels of impact minimal to negligible.
Surface and Groundwater	▪ Loss of surface water to creeks. ▪ Loss of groundwater in licensed bores. ▪ Water discharge from the site. ▪ Discharge water quality in Airly Creek. ▪ Airly Mine future water requirements.	▪ Determination of extent of underground impact – limited to Permian strata. ▪ Mine design to eliminate or minimise surface cracking. ▪ Site water and salt balances for the Project = shows low risk of poor discharge. ▪ No new groundwater licences required. ▪ Surface water catchments are adequate for Project needs. ▪ REA design to prevent acid mine drainage.
Ecology and Heritage	▪ Impact of mining on European and Aboriginal heritage sites. ▪ Questioning of which sites were addressed and what resources were used. ▪ Various flora and fauna species raised for consideration.	▪ All European and Aboriginal heritage sites in areas with negligible subsidence levels. ▪ Shallow sites excised from mining. ▪ All queries on European and Aboriginal heritage raised were checked and verified. ▪ Local Aboriginal community was extensively involved in the Aboriginal heritage survey work. All issues raised on terrestrial flora and fauna assessment, including the presence of certain species were checked and verified; any uncertain species (e.g. the Capertee snail) were assessed as if present.



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Technical Assessment	Issues	How these are addressed in the EIS
Visual, Noise and Air Quality	- Visual amenity - Noise amenity - Dust emissions - Vibration - Community is left with impact if modelling is wrong.	- Low visual impact site. Little change to existing infrastructure. - Progressive construction and rehabilitation of the REA. - Low background noise levels. Noise levels meet lowest statutory levels at nearest residential receptors. Ongoing proactive management of specific noise-related issues. - Underground mine – low levels of emissions. - Expand existing dust monitoring gauge program to additional nearest receptors. - Vibration due to underground machinery has been assessed to be of limited range (<200 m) of influence. No fracturing of massive overburden units. - All processes managed by a Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) developed for the Project.
Rehabilitation and Mine Closure	- Water quality from site after mine closure. - What happens to the rehabilitation if Centennial Airly goes bankrupt. - Visual impact of REA	- Site rehabilitation plan is to restore pre-mining grazing and native vegetation landform. - Water quality will have to meet levels appropriate for Airly Creek before lease can be relinquished. - REA design incorporates co-disposal, inert capping and progressive rehabilitation. - Centennial Airly will continue to pay rehabilitation bonds to ensure this work is carried out.

7.3.4 Social Impact Assessment Consultation

The social impact assessment process has followed a long-term approach to stakeholder engagement and consultation in relation to the Project. Specific activities included:

- direct engagement with residents / landholders to identify individual and collective values of the area
- consultation with specialist consultants preparing technical assessments in support of the EIS
- numerous site visits.

The process also involved participation and observation of Centennial Airly's own stakeholder engagement strategies to understand who is engaged in the process, the rationale for their engagement and key areas of enquiry. This included attendance at the Special Monitoring Committee meetings at Airly Mine (Section 7.3.1) and attendance at the four technical sessions facilitated in the Project (Section 7.3.3).

Information gathered from the community profile, the social impact assessment undertaken for the Project including consultation and site visits (Section 6.1) and feedback from consultation and community engagement has identified a number of key themes which are relevant to the social impacts relating to mining in general at Airly Mine. These are summarised below.

- Surface and groundwater impacts have been raised as a key area of concern from surrounding landholders, especially in the Glen Davis, Glen Alice and Bogee areas. It has been often stated that water in these areas is scarce and there is fear that the limited access to groundwater will be threatened (quality and quantity) by the Project, which will in-turn have an adverse impact on agriculture in the area.
- Impact of subsidence on surface features over the mining area and in particular cliff lines and items of cultural heritage value.
- Loss of rural amenity due to noise, deposited dust, visual impacts, lights and traffic.
- Adverse impact on the areas tourism.



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- The potential for irreversible damage to the environment if the mine does not perform in accordance with the mine design criteria and overall project design resulting in for example polluted water discharge into Airly Creek, damage to surface features such as cliffs due to subsidence, and loss of groundwater.
- The lack of benefit for the broader community as the Project will not employ local people and will therefore not generate local spending; participation in social / community activities, contribute to the school population etc.
- The risk to the environment due to the perceived lack of financial viability of the Project.
- The area has high conservation value, and the community with an interest in the Project are not limited to landholders.

The issues raised have been considered against the findings of the EIS. Given the Project has adopted a conservative mine design that limits impacts to the surrounding community, and that the potential impacts have been managed so they will largely remain within the Project Application Area then the potential impacts outside of the Project Application Area are limited to the following:

- very minor and localised reductions in total average flow in the Gap and Genowlan Creeks (<3%) are expected resulting in negligible impact to surface water supplies on neighbouring properties
- limited visual impact on surface infrastructure and the REA primarily from Camerons Road and when travelling along Glen Davis Road
- minimal to negligible water quality impacts to Airly Creek predicted
- predicted noise levels on nearest residential receptors (located outside the Project Application Area are within compliance limits.

In summary the Project results in:

- no requirement to purchase property as a means of managing impact on social amenity
- no impact on surrounding land use or viability of agricultural production
- no significant change to the economic profile of the community except for the potential for incidental economic benefit via localised spending
- no change to the social fabric of the area
- no change to how residents or visitors utilise the area.

7.3.5 Aboriginal Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders was undertaken by Centennial Airly and RPS in accordance with the *NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (DECCW 2010b), which includes a four stage consultation process and identifies specific timeframes for each stage. The objective of the Aboriginal consultation process is to ensure that an opportunity is given to a broad range of Aboriginal stakeholders to express their cultural heritage values of the Project, including spiritual connections, archaeological sites, and the natural environment and landscape values.

The consultation methodology involved the identification of Aboriginal Land Councils, Elders and other interested parties in accordance with the consultation requirements (DECCW 2010b), followed by consultation with Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders in the area. There were 15 Aboriginal community groups who were identified as potentially having an interest in the project. Of these, 10 Aboriginal stakeholder groups, listed below, registered their interest in the Project, six groups returned their comments on the methodology and four groups participated in the site surveys.



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- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc
- Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Mooka Traditional Owners
- North-East Wiradjuri Company Ltd
- Warrabinga Native Title Claimants Aboriginal Corporation
- Wiradjuri Council of Elders
- Wiray-dyuraa Ngambaay-dyil and Wiray-dyuraa Maying-gu
- Warrabinga/Wiradjuri people
- Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation.

A register of interested parties was maintained and specific comments regarding the cultural significance of the Project is outlined in the *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment prepared by RPS Australia East Pty Ltd* and is supplied in Appendix J.

7.3.6 Government Agency Consultation

The then NSW P&I advised that a Planning Focus Meeting for the Project will not be required to formally seek the views of relevant statutory authorities in respect of potential impacts of the Project, or to identify those issues, which would need to be addressed in this EIS. However, a Government Briefing Meeting to discuss collectively four of Centennial Coal's projects from the Western Operations was organised for 17 October 2012 to provide an opportunity for statutory authorities to establish the requirements for the form and content of the EISs for the projects. Site visits were organised for 18 October 2012 and included a visit to the Airly Mine pit top. .

Table 7.2 outlines the Government (Local Government, State and Commonwealth) consultation undertaken to date.

Table 7.2: Summary of Consultation with Government agencies

Agency	Comment
Local Government- Lithgow City Council (LCC)	On 11 July 2012 Centennial Coal's senior management presented an overview of all projects from the Western Operations, including the Airly Mine Extension Project, to Councillors of Lithgow City Council, the General Manager, the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor. A Government Briefing Meeting was organised on 17 and 18 October 2012 to discuss a number of Projects from Centennial Coal's Western Operations, including the Airly Mine Extension Project. Lithgow City Council staff present at the meeting and took part in a site visit on 18 October 2012, which included a visit to the Airly Mine pit top and the locations for the reject emplacement areas. On 7 November 2013, a combined consultation meeting was held with representatives of LCC's Development and Planning Department to present the key features of a number of projects being proposed by Centennial Coal including Airly Mine Extension Project. An overview of the project was presented including the proposed mine design, surface infrastructure and findings of the specialist consultants to date.



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Agency	Comment
NSW State Government Agencies- ▪ (Former) Department of Planning and Infrastructure (NSW P&I) ▪ Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) ▪ Environment Protection Agency (EPA) ▪ Division of Resources and Energy (DRE), Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services DTIRIS ▪ Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) ▪ Transport for NSW ▪ NSW Health ▪ Department of Primary Industries- Forestry Corporation of NSW (the former NSW Forests)	Representatives of these Government agencies attended the Government Briefing Meeting held in Lithgow on 17 October 2012. The representatives were given the opportunity to provide feedback and/or raise issues of concern on the Project. Representatives from the NSW P&I, OEH, DRE, SCA, NSW Health and LCC attended a site visit on 18 October 2012, which included a site visit to Airly Mine pit top, the Carinya homestead and locations of the REAs.
Department of Planning and Infrastructure	A meeting was held with officers of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on 28 November 2013 to discuss key elements of the Project and findings of the specialist consultants reports completed to date. Outcomes of this meeting are summarised below: ▪ Verical subsidence to be referred to as a maximum 125 mm. ▪ The lease renewal will reflect the National Park boundary which was declared after Airly Mine's current consent was granted. ▪ Confirmation of the area covered by critically endangered heathland on Genowlan Mountain. ▪ Confirmation that no new discharge points would be required. ▪ Further consideration of mitigation measures in the New Hartley Shale Mining Area. The Subsidence Impact Assessment is to include sensitivity analysis 500/200/100/50 mm. ▪ There will be a requirement to map existing historical workings in the New Hartley Shale Mining Area ▪ The size and location of the Reject Emplacement Area. Centennial Coal's senior management met with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure on 12 December 2013 to discuss biodiversity and water aspects for the various Centennial Coal projects, including the Project.
Environment Protection Agency Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Sydney Catchment Authority	A meeting was held with officers of the NSW Environment Protection Agency, the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority and Sydney Catchment Authority on 29 October 2013 to discuss key elements of the Project and findings of the relevant technical assessment reports. Outcomes of this meeting are summarised below: ▪ REA catchment dam will be designed and installed for LOM requirements from the beginning ▪ air quality assessment has taken into consideration the requirements of the latest Dust PRPs on Airly Mine's EPL 12374. A further meeting with the EPA was held on 13 March 2014 at Airly Mine to discuss the outcomes of the air quality, noise, surface and groundwater impact assessments undertaken for the Project.



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Agency	Comment
Division of Resources and Energy, Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services	A meeting was held with officers of Division of Resources and Energy, Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services on 15 October 2013 to discuss key elements of the Project and findings of the specialist consultant's reports. Outcomes of this meeting are summarised below: - confirmation of subsidence predictions and mining methods - consider the data from Gretley Mine regarding the eventuality of flooding and the stability of pillars - factor of safety under cliffs to refer to industry practice and refer to the nominal angle of draw to determine the factor of safety. Factors such as weak roof and floor to be considered in all pillar size determinations - mining under the New Hartley Shale Mining Area to be first workings - sustainability and viability of the mine given that it is currently in care and maintenance. A meeting was held with officers of the Division of Resources and Energy, on 8 April 2014 to discuss rehabilitation and final landform for the Project. Particular emphasis was placed on the establishment and rehabilitation of the proposed REA. The following issues were raised at the meeting: - nearest sensitive receptors for the potential visual impact of the proposed REA - the size of the proposed REA compared to the footprint of the REA previously approved; - the crest height of the REA at the highest point - availability of plans cross-sections through the REA at all stages of establishment and rehabilitation and through the final landform - the land capability of the rehabilitated REA and whether the Project will commit to pre-mining Land Capability Classes of 4 and 5 as per community expectations - justification for the restricted grazing domain proposed for the REA final landform - whether co-disposal option for reject material management underground had been investigated as part of the Project, and the underground storage available for this option - whether Airly Creek extremely high salinity is diluted as it flows downstream. A meeting was held with DRE at Airly Mine on 13 August 2013 to discuss outcomes of the subsidence impact assessment undertaken for the Project. Public safety issues were also discussed. These discussions were followed by a site visit over the proposed mining area within ML1331 and A232 boundaries.
NSW Health	A meeting was held with officers of NSW Health and the Nepean Blue Mountains Public Health Unit on 5 November 2013 to discuss key elements of the Project and findings of the specialist consultants' reports relating to air quality and noise assessments. Outcomes of this meeting are summarised below: - clarification of some terminology used, for example co-disposal. - confirmation of mine production - outline of the planned community consultation relating to air quality and noise impact assessments.
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	A meeting was held with officers of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) at OEH's Mudgee Office on 14 February 2013 to discuss Centennial's Western Operations proposal to develop a Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy to offset the direct and indirect potential impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the Projects on regional biodiversity. A meeting was held with officers of the Office of Environment and Heritage on 30 October 2013: Outcomes of the meeting are summarised below:



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	▪ discussion on the outcomes of the baseline historic heritage assessment for the Project ▪ discussion on flora and fauna monitoring activity over the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. Centennial Coal's senior management met with OEH on 30 October 2013 to discuss biodiversity aspects for the various Centennial Coal projects, including the Project. A meeting was held with officers of the Office of Environment and Heritage on 25 November 2013 to further discuss flora and fauna monitoring activity over the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. A further meeting with OEH was held on 13 March 2014 at Airly Mine to provide information on: ▪ potential impacts of the Project on terrestrial ecology and cultural heritage ▪ Centennial Coal's proposal for the development of a Regional Cultural Heritage Management Plan to cover all its Western Operations ▪ the proposed Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy for the Angus Place and Springvale Mine Extension Projects and Neubecks Coal Project ▪ the metric and methodologies used for direct and indirect offsets proposed in the Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy. While extensive discussions on the Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy were held the majority of the discussions were not relevant to the Airly Mine Extension Project. The following issues were raised in relation to the Project: ▪ clarification on the Aboriginal heritage sites and their locations within the Project Application Area; ▪ whether National Parks and Wildlife Service has undertaken any cultural heritage surveys within the Project Application Area ▪ format of the Regional Cultural Heritage Management Plan and the role that OEH will play in the development of the Plan ▪ whether the Plan will include the management of heritage items within the proposed offset area in the Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy ▪ whether any bats have been tracked to the caves within the Project Application Area ▪ whether there are any plans to commence monitoring the microclimate (e.g. wind, moisture, temperature) of the caves prior, during and post mining ▪ whether the ecology survey results in the EIS are actual distribution-based or based on accessibility to areas for surveys ▪ why are the ecology survey results from University of Queensland team distinguished from the RPS survey team, and survey methodologies employed by both teams ▪ clarification on water discharges off site, and the downstream catchment of the Airly Creek. Centennial Coal's senior management and the Airly Project Team will be involved in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Draft SCA Plan of Management for the Mugii Murum-ban SCA and landowner access agreements. The consultation is ongoing. A meeting with OEH and NPWS was held on 01 August 2014 at Airly Mine to: ▪ Review monitoring activities undertaken in 2013 ▪ Discuss proposed monitoring for the remainder of 2014 ▪ Discuss monitoring requirements for 2015 and beyond ▪ Discuss OEH's role in determining priorities for terrestrial flora, fauna, aquatic ecology monitoring ▪ Consider monitoring in relation to recovery programs ▪ Consider monitoring items related to SCA management issues , e.g. impacts of access for monitoring and exploration activities



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Agency	Comment
	- Discuss involvement of other regulatory authorities to discuss limiting monitoring to prevent unnecessary impacts on the SCA from surface/groundwater and subsidence monitoring - Present findings of recent re-survey of the proposed REA including occurrence of derived native grassland within the area - Inspect the proposed REA to gauge the condition of the condition of derived native grasslands.
Department of Primary Industries	A joint meeting with the Office of Water and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure was held on 22 October 2014 to discuss projects from Centennial Coal's Western Operations including the Airly Mine Extension Project. The general discussions included: - the hydrogeological modelling methodologies undertaken for the projects (MODFLOW for the Airly Mine Extension Project) - the water licensing requirements for the projects.
Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)	An email was sent to the Development Assessment Officer at the Parkes Office of RMS on 7 July 2014 requesting a consultation meeting. A copy of the Traffic Impact Assessment undertaken for the Project was provided with the email. RMS emailed on 7 August 2014 to note that a face-to-face consultation on the Project was not warranted.
Commonwealth Government Agency Department of the Environment (former SEWPAC)	Centennial Coal's senior management met with the former SEWPAC on 15 June 2013 to discuss the various upcoming Centennial Coal's projects, including the Project. At this meeting, SEWPAC were informed that the Airly Mine Extension Project would be referred under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999</i>. A second meeting was held between Centennial Coal's senior management and the former SEWPAC on 3 December 2012 for Centennial Coal to provide additional information on all Centennial Coal projects that will be referred for declaration as controlled actions. The Airly Mine Extension Project was discussed at this meeting. A meeting was held with the Department of the Environment on 12 March 2014 to discuss Centennial Coal's Regional Biodiversity Offset Strategy proposed for projects from the Western Operations. The Airly Mine Extension Project was discussed at this meeting to provide justification of why an offset strategy was not being proposed for this Project. .

Issues raised at the Government Briefing Meeting on 17 October and site visit on 18 October 2012 and particularly areas that need to be discussed within the EIS are included in Table 7.3. The table also provides EIS reference where each issue has been addressed.



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Table 7.3: Summary of Issues Raised at the Government Briefing Meeting on 17 October 2012 and Site Visit on 18 October 2012

Stakeholder	Key Issues Raised	EIS Reference
(Former) Department of Planning and Investment (NSW P&I)	1) The cumulative impacts of the Project require consideration.	1) Chapter 10.0
	2) Expectations for regulation of environmental issues such as water discharge have increased since the consent was approved and must be considered.	2) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water
	3) The Project needs to include the long term strategy with regards to the final rehabilitation plan.	3) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.9 Life of Mine and Rehabilitation
	4) The Project needs to consider the requirements of the Rural Fire Service, particularly safety of workers in a bushfire.	4) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.12 Hazards
	5) The Project will be assessed by the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) due to political donations.	5) Noted
	6) It was noted that "no impact" is not a government policy. The trade-off between the economic objectives of the Project and conservation, using cost benefit arguments, needs to be presented.	6) Chapter 6.0 Socio-Economic Analysis and Chapter 12.0 Justification and Conclusion
	7) Potential noise and dust issues need to be discussed within the EIS.	7) Section 10.5 Noise Management
	8) The impacts of additional rail traffic (noise and dust) are required to be discussed within the EIS.	8) Section 10.5 Noise Management and Section 10.6 Air Quality Management
	9) The EIS must articulate how the important values over the mine will be managed.	9) Chapter 8.0 and Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessment (Appendix D)
	10) Outcomes to protect 'values' of the area are required. The new consent will not be as per existing consent where it stipulates that Division of Resources and Energy be consulted on subsidence damage.	10) Chapter 8.0 and Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessment (Appendix D)
	11) Subsidence impacts of the previous Torbanite (oil) shale mining should be understood and clarified within the EIS. The subsidence impact assessment for the project should take into consideration subsidence from these previous mining activities.	11) Chapter 8.0 and 10.0
	12) Heritage values of the old mine workings that were fully extracted could be lost if we mine beneath them and this should be noted within the EIS.	12) Section 10.3 Heritage and Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (Appendix J)
	13) Risks to sensitive areas should be addressed within the EIS.	13) Section 8.2.3
	14) Surface cracking will be an issue and should be discussed within the EIS.	14) Chapter 8.0 and Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessment (Appendix D)
	15) A map is required that defines risk/significance due to the proposed mine design criteria across the Project Application Area.	15) Figure 8.2 shows the proposed mining zones that are based on surface feature sensitivity
	16) Alternatives for subsidence monitoring to minimise the impacts of the monitoring program (remote sensing, high resolution photography versus survey line) should be discussed within the EIS.	16) Chapter 8.0 and 10.0
	17) Notes that land holder consent is required given the Project Application Area lies within a state conservation area.	17) Noted
	18) Discussions on mine closure plan and rehabilitation options should be included within the EIS.	18) Section 10.9 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation



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Stakeholder	Key Issues Raised	EIS Reference
Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA)	The following principles need to be taken into consideration: 1) There will be no impacts on the quality or the quantity of water flowing into Sydney's drinking water catchment. 2) Any change must have a neutral or beneficial impact on water quality. 3) Discharges need to achieve drinking water quality goals. 4) The Project needs to address the cumulative impacts, not just impacts from mining developments (eg. impacts from Delta's operations need to be included in the western projects). 5) Clarification on hydrological model scope should be included.	1) – 5) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and Surface Water and Groundwater Impact Assessments (Appendix E and F)
Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	1) Any alterations to surface water flows that impact on Endangered Ecological Communities must be considered. 2) There is a need to study surface water flow changes due to the Project, and cumulative impacts from all projects. 3) OEH were interested in the 100+-25 mm subsidence and clarification on whether this will cause no surface impacts is required within the EIS. 4) Consideration needs to be taken that some plant species are very sensitive to 'drying'. 5) Queries as to whether the project will be economically viable if partial extraction over the entire Project Application Area is not undertaken and whether management plans will be approved over the entire Project Application Area was raised by OEH at the site visit on 18.11.12.	1) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and Section 10.2 Ecology 2) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and Section 10.2 Ecology 3) Chapter 8.0 and Subsidence Predictions and Impact Assessment (Appendix D) 4) Section 10.2.4.4 5) The Project and economic analysis is based on an economically viable proposal.
Environment Protection Authority	1) The EPA was satisfied with the existing operations and water management structures in place. 2) Clarification is required on the impact of the REA on surface water. 3) Impacts of noise on the nearby residents when the washery is built are required to be assessed.	1) Noted 2) Appendix F Surface Water Impact Assessment 3) Section 10.5 Noise Management
Division of Resources and Energy	1) Emplacing rejects underground should be considered. 2) Detailed exploration proposals into the EIS should be included to avoid further REF assessments. The more information included regarding the exploration program the better and this will simplify the process going forward. 3) Include discussions on mine closure and final landform.	1) Section 4.8.3 and 12.4.3 2) Section 3.3 3) Section 10.9 Decommissioning and Rehabilitation
Lithgow City Council	1) Queries where the water supply for the CPP will be sourced from.	1) Section 10.1
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Populations and Communities (former SEWPAC)	1) Cumulative impacts of the Project must be understood and included in the EIS.	1) throughout the EIS
NSW Health	1) The impacts on health from cumulative impacts need to be considered. The then NSW P&I however advised that there is no government policy on this topic at this stage and this may be included in the Strategic Regional Land Use Policy, but noted the issue for the Western Coalfields is relatively low priority compared to the Hunter valley coal mines.	1) Chapter 10.0



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Consultation with stakeholders listed below was undertaken by then NSW P&I during the development of the DGRs. During the application process and submission of the Briefing Paper, government agencies were afforded the opportunity to provide feedback and requirements were considered by the NSW P&I within the DGRs. A summary of the aspects raised by government agencies and how each of these has been addressed within this EIS is provided in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4: Summary of Government Agency Submissions to the DGRs

Stakeholder	Key Issues Raised	EIS Reference
(Former) Department of Planning and Infrastructure	1) DGRs for the Project were issued on 06.11.12. 2) The Office of Agricultural Sustainability & Food Security believes that impacts to agriculture will be unlikely from this proposal. Hence an Agricultural Impact Statement is not required. The project area is not on or near land used for agricultural production. However, the Project may extract groundwater resources and therefore the EIS should address the impact on groundwater for agriculture as part of the water management investigations.	1) Chapter 1.0 Introduction 2) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.9 Agriculture and Land Use Impact Assessment (Appendix Q)
Department of Trade & Investment, Regional Infrastructure & Services	1) Requested that the EIS clearly identifies existing coal titles within and adjacent to the Project areas and any new mining titles which will be required in order to undertake the Project. 2) Requested that the proponent complies with the Commonwealth <i>Native Title Act 1993</i>. 3) Requested specific information relating to rehabilitation post mining land use and landforms, objectives and mine closure completion criteria. 4) Exploration activities should be clearly defined in the EIS. 5) The EIS must consider alternative rejects disposal options, including disposal in underground mine workings. 6) The EIS should provide a subsidence assessment. Baseline assessment of the surface features above the mining areas must be sufficient to identify environmental features at risk.	1) Chapter 3.0 Existing Operations and Chapter 4.0 Project Description 2) Chapter 5.0 Planning Considerations 3) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.9 Life of Mine and Rehabilitation 4) Section 4.3 5) Chapter 8.0 Mine Design 6) Chapter 8.0 Mine Design and Subsidence Impact Assessment (Appendix D)
Lithgow City Council	The EIS should address the likely increase in train traffic.	There will be no increase in train traffic
NSW Office of Water	Key issues to be addressed: 1) That adequate and secure water supply is available for all activities for the life of the mine. 2) Compliance with the rules in any relevant Water Sharing Plan and legislation. 3) Baseline monitoring (minimum of fortnightly data sampling for at least 2 years prior to mine operations) of all surface water and groundwater sources and dependent ecosystems within and adjacent to the mining area for calibration of models and development of trigger criteria. 4) Predictive assessments of potential impacts to surface water and groundwater sources, basic landholder's rights to water, adjacent licensed water users and dependent ecosystems and monitoring to enable comparison with ongoing monitoring. 5) Mitigation strategies to address impacts on surface water and groundwater sources and dependent ecosystems for the operational and post mining phases of the proposal and final landform.	Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and Surface and Groundwater Impact Assessment (Appendix E and F)



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Stakeholder	Key Issues Raised	EIS Reference
NSW Health	Key issues to be addressed: 1) use of local air quality monitoring as far as possible to establish background PM₁₀ 2) assess the incremental impacts on PM₁₀ from the Project 3) include an assessment of potential cumulative impacts on PM₁₀ by considering other known new air pollution emissions sources in the area 4) where schools, nursing homes or health facilities are subject to noise from the Project include the modelled noise impacts.	1) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.6 Air Quality and Appendix L 2) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.6 Air Quality and Appendix L 3) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.6 Air Quality and Appendix L 4) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.5 Noise and Appendix K
Office of Environment and Heritage	1) include full flora and fauna studies and offset proposals 2) clearly detail the expected quality, temperature and quantity of water being released and any impacts on aquatic biodiversity 3) consider changes to groundwater levels, as changes in groundwater can lead to impacts such as drying of vegetation communities 4) include the regional water strategy 5) ensure that a due diligence assessment to avoid harming Aboriginal objects is conducted prior to ground disturbance 6) consultation must be in accordance with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements For Proponents 2010 (DECCW 2010) 7) address direct and indirect impacts on public land. The EIS at a minimum should include viewshed analyses from visitors to public land 8) address the issue of linear infrastructure such as new tracks and power lines linking previously isolated natural features 9) historic heritage will need to be assessed and heritage management plans prepared 10) include details of expected greenhouse gas emissions and how these will be minimised. A greenhouse gas management plan should be included within the EIS 11) clearly identify all natural features and detail how impacts to these will be avoided, mitigated and offset 12) details of environmental protection zones should be included and how they have been avoided, monitored and or managed 13) the EIS should identify sensitive features and how sensitivity was defined and delineated 14) the EIS will need to provide specific details of intended monitoring programs and methods 15) address impacts on the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area.	1) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.2 Ecology 2) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and 10.2 Ecology 3) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 Water and 10.2 Ecology 4) Appendix F Regional Water Balance 5) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.3 Heritage 6) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.3 Heritage 7) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.10 Visual Amenity 8) Chapter 10.0, various sections 9) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.3 Heritage 10) Chapter 10.0 Section 10.7 Greenhouse Gas Management 11) Chapter 8.0 Mine Design, Chapter 10.0 Section 10.1 (Water), 10.2 (Ecology) and 10.3 (Heritage). 12) Chapter 8.0 Mine Design (there are no environmental protection zones as such) 13) Chapter 8.0 Mine Design 14) Chapter 3.0 Existing Operations, Chapter 4.0 Project Description and Chapter 10.0 15) Throughout EIS



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Stakeholder	Key Issues Raised	EIS Reference
Roads and Maritime Services, NSW	A traffic impact study should be prepared in accordance with Section 2 of the RTA's Guide to Traffic Generating Developments, including: 1) hours and days of construction and operation and how proposed operations will interact with existing operations 2) the road and rail traffic and transport volumes and types. Volumes should also include mine input related traffic generation and impact of mine related traffic generation on public roads. The traffic study should address internal traffic movements and parking facilities 3) any oversize and over-mass vehicles and loads 4) the selection of routes having regard to the risk and impact to other motorists 5) the impact of traffic and measures employed to ensure efficiency and safety on the adjacent road network, in particular the Castlereagh Highway 6) any mitigation measures required to address expected traffic generation 7) local climate conditions that may affect road safety for vehicles; 8) an assessment of potential impacts on the capacity, efficiency and safety of the rail network, and what measures would be implemented to maintain capacity, efficiency and safety over the life of the project 9) access arrangements for coal being transported by rail, including train configurations and confirmation of path availability 10) details of required infrastructure works to support any increased demand on the rail or road network as a result of the Project.	Chapter 10.0 Section 10.4 Traffic and Transport

7.4 Feedback on Stakeholder Engagement

The EIS will be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 30 days to allow for government agencies, organisations, interest groups, stakeholders and community members to provide written submissions. Table 7.5 provides information regarding the tools and activities adopted by Centennial Airly to encourage the community and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Project or EIS.

Table 7.5: Tools and Activities to Encourage Community Feedback

Engagement tool	Details
Contact Mechanisms	A dedicated Project telephone (number 6354 8700) at Airly Mine was established to enable all stakeholders to provide feedback on the Project and ask questions of the Project team. The feedback has been considered during the preparation of the EIS.
Project Website	Information on the Project (Briefing Paper and DGRs) has been posted on the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's website and Centennial Airly's website.
Advertisements	Mudgee Guardian and Lithgow Mercury
Aboriginal Consultation	Aboriginal consultation was undertaken in line with <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements For Proponents</i> (DECCW 2010).
Stakeholder Briefings	Face-to-face and written briefings to stakeholders informing them of the public exhibition phase and requests for comment.

Once the EIS exhibition period is complete, Centennial Airly will prepare a Response to Submissions Report, if required, summarising the issues and concerns raised through the written submissions by the community and stakeholders prior to determination by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure.



7.5 Conclusion

As demonstrated in Table 7.3 and Table 7.4 all perceived issues raised by stakeholders have been considered within this EIS and through the completion of technical assessments.

Centennial Airly is committed to the timely, orderly, consistent and credible dissemination of appropriate information within the constraints of legal and regulatory requirements to all interested stakeholders. To date, no major complaints have been received from the community on Airly Mine operations.

Consultation with stakeholders will continue throughout the life of the Project to:

- maintain strong and effective relationships with the community throughout the life of the Project
- ensure the community remains informed of Airly Mine's progress
- disseminate the outcomes of the EIS assessment process and the development application for the Project.