



PCU066632

18 August 2016



Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Department of Planning  
Received  
22 AUG 2016  
Scanning Room

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Springvale Mine Extension Project – State Significant Development 5594**

I refer to the application by Springvale Coal Pty Limited (Springvale Coal), owner and operator of the Springvale Mine to modify the mine's consent SSD 5594. Springvale Mine is owned by Centennial Springvale Pty Limited (as to 50%) and Springvale SK Kores Pty Limited (as to 50%) as participants in the Springvale unincorporated joint venture.

As I understand it the proposal is seeking to:

- (i) increase Springvale Mine's workforce from the approved 310 full time personnel to 450 full time personnel,
- (ii) increase the run of mine coal production limit from the approved 4.5 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 5.5 Mtpa, and
- (iii) increase the Springvale pit top coal stockpile capacity from the approved 85,000 tonnes to 200,000 tonnes.

Lithgow is acknowledged as the oldest mining community in the Central West Region of NSW. The economic and social fabric of the community has developed around the coal industry.

The mining industry has historically been a very important component of the Lithgow economy, and still remains so today. According to the ABS 2011 Census, the mining sector employed about 12.4% of the total Lithgow resident workforce in 2011. Any fluctuations in the coal mining sector have the potential to have a major impact upon the Lithgow community.

According to the *Economic Impact Assessment 2014/15 Report* prepared for the NSW Minerals Council (dated January 2016) the following results were presented for the Lithgow LGA:

- a. \$183.7 million in direct spending through:
  - i. \$126.1 million in wages and salaries to 891 direct, full-time residing employees (including contractors); and
  - ii. \$57.6 million in purchases of goods and services from 171 local businesses (including contractors) and community contributions.



- b. the total economic contribution in the Lithgow LGA (direct, indirect and induced) during 2014/15 amounted to \$371.9 million in value added, or 22% of total gross regional product in the Lithgow LGA.

With coal mining so important to the Lithgow Community the Springvale Mine is a very important development for the region. Not only is this mine a very important source of employment for many within the Lithgow Local Government Area it is also now the only practical supplier of coal to the Mount Piper Power Station, another significant employer in the Lithgow LGA. The Mount Piper Power Station currently provides up to 15% of the State's power supply.

Last year we were very pleased that the NSW Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) found, on two separate occasions, that it was satisfied that the Springvale Mine Extension Project's benefits were considered to outweigh the potential impacts and that the development is therefore 'approvable'. As a result the development was given development consent.

The Lithgow community has, in recent years, endured a difficult period. This has come about with the economy tightening, world coal prices dropping and the loss of local jobs, including those from the recently closed Angus Place Mine.

Given the importance of this industry to Lithgow I would urge you to favourably consider the modification before you.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maree Statham', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Maree Statham**  
MAYOR