



19 February 2026

Secretary  
NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
Locked Bag 5022,  
Parramatta NSW 2124

## Re: Clarence Colliery's proposed Modification 11

Dear Secretary,

4nature strongly **opposes the 5-year extension of the Clarence mine.**

Coal extracted from the mine will release large volumes of **harmful greenhouse gases** and damage the global climate, harming millions of people and the global natural environment. The NSW Government has a duty to end its role in facilitating greenhouse gas emissions and **leave our State's coal in the ground.**

I am concerned that this proposal has been presented as a modification to an existing approval, using the streamlined part of the planning law (Section 4.55(1A) of the EP&A Act) for extensions to original proposals. These proposals require a proposal to have 'no or minimal environmental impact'.

It is clear from the continued extraction of coal for 5 years, and the associated additional 35,000+ truck movements, groundwater impacts, surface water management issues and greenhouse gas emissions, that the **Mod 11 proposal will NOT have minimal environmental impacts.** Indeed, it will have significant environmental impacts on people and the environment. Therefore, **this proposed extension should undergo a full environmental impact assessment under planning law.**

### Conditions that must be imposed if approval is granted

Despite this, if approval of the mine extension is being considered and the impacts are believed to have no more than 'minimal' impacts, it is important that **strict, contemporary conditions are placed on the operation of Clarence mine** that minimise these impacts.

Firstly, **coal from Clarence mine must be preferentially used to supply Mt Piper Power Station**, stopping the power station's reliance on the damaging and extremely wet Springvale mine. Most of the coal from Clarence mine is currently exported. If extraction from Clarence mine continues for a further 5 years, it should instead supply Mount Piper Power Station. This will avoid the need for coal to be supplied to the power station from more damaging mines in the region such as the proposed Springvale West or Angus Place West mines.

To facilitate coal being supplied to Mt Piper Power Station, the 5-year approval must be **conditional on upgrading the Lidsdale rail siding coal unloader within a reasonable period**, eg 1 year. Building this critical infrastructure will allow the unloading of high volumes of coal from rail wagons at Lidsdale siding for transfer to Mt Piper Power Station conveyor belt. It would also avoid up to 300,000 tonnes of coal being moved by truck to Lidsdale each year.

Centennial Coal has already received approval to upgrade the Lidsdale rail siding coal unloader. We understand that the design of the unloader may need to be changed. In October 2025, Centennial Coal told 4nature, that they have developed concept plans for the redesigned coal unloader.

**The construction of the Lidsdale rail siding coal unloader must be expedited to reduce the reliance of Mt Piper Power Station on coal from Springvale mine.**

Upgrading Lidsdale rail siding coal unloader will also allow large volumes of coal to be supplied from Centennial Coal's Airly mine, increasing the flexibility of coal supply options for the Mt Piper Power Station.

Changing the transport mode for the supply of Clarence mine coal from road to rail will save over 7,000 truck trips per year. **Five more years of heavy truck movements through the Blue Mountains and Sydney will significantly impact on Blue Mountains residents, road users and roads.** These communities will have to deal with noise, traffic, diesel pollution and road safety risks from these trucks.

**Rail is readily available, and its use should be made mandatory for coal transport.**

Finally, the rehabilitation requirements that are already in place for the mine must be reviewed and upgraded. The existing rehabilitation commitments are outdated and inadequate and need to be replaced with **modern, enforceable rehabilitation standards.**

Rehabilitation should focus on the rehabilitation of old waste dumps and disused coal waste heaps and preventing fine sediments or polluted water entering the Wollangambe River in the Blue Mountains National Park. Once closed, **the mine should be sealed** and any release of polluted groundwater water prevented, or a permanent treatment solution put in place.

**Monitoring for invasive plants** on the site of any surface infrastructure must take place for at least 10 years post mine closure, and professional weed management (using best practice) undertaken to remove plants and ultimately the seed load. For example, infestations of invasive pampas grass have been poorly managed at the Clarence mine site, and this plant needs to be one of the priority weeds subject to monitoring and treatment.

Yours sincerely  
Andrew Cox, president