

**Submission on the proposed Centennial Mine pollution of Sydney's drinking water supply**

My name is Peter Youll. I am a retired engineer. My qualification for making this submission is that I am a consumer of water supplied by Sydney Water, and I object to any action, deliberate or accidental, that pollutes this water.. The proposal by Centennial Coal to dump mine waste into the headwaters of the Warragamba Dam is unacceptable on those grounds alone. I also object to the damage to the ecological value of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and wildlife, in particular the platypus.

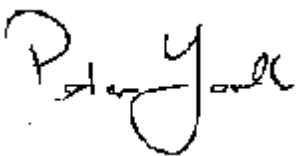
If this proposal is approved, it will result in a huge increase in sedimentary and chemical pollution, heavy metal and salinity load into the receiving environment. Higher salinity means lower oxygen, which reduces food for platypus. Their ability to locate prey will be affected by increased salinity, preventing them from finding food leading, to poor health or even death.

Centennial must be required to treat mine water to ensure that any discharge fully removes contaminants like heavy metals and chemicals, and to deliver the zero release system they proposed when the water treatment plant was approved. Anything less threatens the safety of Sydney's drinking water supply and water dependent ecosystems, including endangered and threatened species.

If Centennial is unable to do this, Springvale mine must be closed and alternative coal supplies found for Mount Piper power station. It is not acceptable to allow Centennial to self-monitor the level of contaminants as they have proposed, given they have an appalling record of having breached environmental licence more than 1400 times across 7 coal mine sites in the Greater Blue Mountains region.

Centennial must be required to reduce, or preferably cease, the continuation of its activities at its underground mines, to protect the natural environment and to reduce the volume of wastewater sent to Mount Piper power station. The government should also commission a public inquiry into mine wastewater produced by Centennial's underground coal mines in the Gardens of Stone region, which is threatened by undermining and collapse by Centennial's activities.

Yours dismayed

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

Peter Youll