

Objection to the Expansion of Centennial Coal Angus Place

To Whom It May Concern,

I am wanting to express my strong objection to the proposed expansion of Centennial Coal's Angus Place coal mine. The expansion poses significant environmental, social, and economic risks that cannot be ignored. Below, I outline the key concerns warranting immediate reconsideration of this project.

1. Environmental Impacts

Destruction of Biodiversity

The proposed expansion threatens the delicate ecosystems of Newnes Plateau, which is home to several vulnerable and endangered species, including the Giant Dragonfly and the Blue Mountains Water Skink. Any further degradation of these habitats could lead to irreversible loss of biodiversity.

Water Resources at Risk

The project risks damaging vital groundwater systems, particularly the Coxs River and surrounding water catchments, which are essential to Sydney's drinking water supply. Subsidence caused by longwall mining could permanently alter surface and groundwater systems, leading to contamination and reduced water availability.

Climate Change Contribution

This expansion is fundamentally at odds with Australia's commitment to reduce carbon emissions. Approving an increase in coal mining not only exacerbates global climate change but undermines global and national efforts toward renewable energy transition.

2. Cultural Heritage

The area under consideration is rich in Aboriginal cultural heritage, holding immense significance to the Wiradjuri and other First Nations communities. The irreversible harm to cultural landmarks caused by mining operations would disregard Indigenous heritage, violating both ethical standards and reconciliation commitments.

3. Health and Community Well-being

Air Quality Concerns

Mining operations release particulate matter and toxic substances, negatively impacting air quality and contributing to respiratory issues among nearby residents. The well-being of communities in Lithgow and surrounding areas must be prioritized.

Noise Pollution

Continued mining will exacerbate noise pollution, causing significant distress and long-term disruptions for local residents.

4. Economic Justifications Are Flawed

While the company emphasizes economic benefits, such as job creation, these claims fail to account for the broader economic costs, including:

- Environmental remediation costs, which often fall on taxpayers.
- Long-term losses to tourism in the Blue Mountains region.
- Costs to public health systems due to the adverse effects of mining operations.

Moreover, transitioning to renewable energy investments offers more sustainable job opportunities for local workers.

Conclusion

The proposed expansion of the Angus Place coal mine presents unacceptable risks to the environment, cultural heritage, community health, and long-term economic stability. These risks far outweigh the potential benefits of the project.

I urge decision-makers to prioritize sustainable development and invest in renewable energy alternatives that safeguard the well-being of current and future generations. It is imperative to reject the expansion of the Angus Place mine to preserve the ecological, cultural, and social integrity of the region.