

# UNITED MINeworker's Angus Place Colliery

(Division of the United Mineworker's South Western District)



**President:** Warren Witherspoon  
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**Secretary:** Barry Jackson

Development Assessment Systems and Approvals  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

23 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Re: Angus Place Mine Extension Project (SSD 5602)**

From our review of the Angus Place Mine Extension Project, the CFMEU has examined the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Centennial Angus Place and wishes to advise the Department of Planning and Environment of its strong support for continued operations at Angus Place Colliery.

In particular, there are significant social and economic advantages which will sustain the benefits gained by the local community of Lithgow, in addition to bringing crucial economic benefits to both New South Wales and the Commonwealth. These are discussed in more detail below.

### **Social Impacts**

Lithgow has a long history with mining. Today the economic base of Lithgow continues to be recognised as being the energy and resources sector. This sector has long been a major employer and subsequently makes a significant contribution to the overall local economy. Sustainable growth in this sector continues to provide other flow-on effects for local support services via direct and indirect employment opportunities. This is occurring across a number of non-energy and resources sectors such as retail and accommodation.

Of crucial importance is the fact that local coal mining employs the highest percentage of the working population (approximately 12.3%), which is clear evidence that mining is the main source of employment within the local area.

This considerable proportion of direct employment highlights the importance of Angus Place Colliery being able to sustain local employment levels and in turn support the local community through employee remuneration. If approved, up to 300 direct jobs will be sustained.

### **Economic Impacts**

From the EIS, it is apparent that a major economic benefit resulting from the Project would be continued stimulus to the local Lithgow economy in addition to the state and Commonwealth. If the Project is approved, Angus Place Colliery will continue the employment opportunities for up to 300 local people and provide wages, royalties and flow-on effects with a net economic benefit of approximately \$699 million in to the local, regional, state and national economies.

If the Project is not approved the extraction of coal at Angus Place Colliery would cease beyond 2016, sterilising the coal resource leading to the premature loss of jobs and early mine closure. This would result in a significant reduction of local mining jobs – the largest employment sector within the locality.

### **Environmental Impacts**

As is apparent in the EIS, Angus Place Colliery is a well-established underground coal mine with well-defined surface and mining environments. Due to knowledge gained from historical operations, Angus Place Colliery has an excellent understanding of mine design principles and requirements for the protection of surface features and management of potential environmental impacts. The mine design, which has been successfully implemented in adjacent mining areas with minimal adverse impacts, shows that Angus Place Colliery is committed to achieving sustainable development.

### **Conclusion**

The CFMEU supports the Project proposed by Centennial Angus Place based on the significant social and economic benefits to be derived from sustained operations.

Yours sincerely

Warren Witherspoon

Angus Place Colliery Lodge CFMEU President  
United Mineworkers  
South Western District