

May 26, 2014

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

State Significant Project – Angus Place Mine Extension (SSD 12_5602)

State Significant Project - Springvale Mine Extension (SSD 12_5594)

I live in the Blue Mountains and am deeply concerned about the continued destruction longwall mining has on our environment, particularly our creeks, rivers, ground water, flora and fauna as well as the impact to residents and to the possible damage to the economy resulting from the potential loss of tourism.

SUMMARY: The proposed Angus Place and Springvale longwall mining extensions are located under the centre of Newnes Plateau in the Gardens of Stone region. The mining will impact mainly on Carne Creek, but also the Wolgan River, Marangaroo and Bunglebourni Creek headwaters. The proposed Angus Place extension covers 2,638 hectares of the Plateau and will cause the land surface to subside up to 1.9 metres. The proposed Springvale extension covers 1,860 hectares of the Plateau and will cause the land surface to subside up to 1.65 metres. As a result of these movements, the surface sandstone rock will be cracked to a depth of 15 to 20 metres over the entire area mined. Popular Birds Rock, in the Flora Reserve, will be fractured. This cracking will cause surface groundwater aquifers to drop by up to 10 metres.

In total, all 73 nationally endangered swamps will be damaged by cracking of the underlying sandstone rock due to the proposed mining. The lower groundwater levels in turn will cause these nationally endangered swamps to dry out. The peat soils that support these swamps will then decompose and over a period of years eucalypts and banksias will migrate into the dying swamps as they evolve into dry land communities. This damage would also kill the many threatened plants and animals supported by these swamps, including the giant dragonfly. In fact, these swamps are so often destroyed by longwall coal mining that scientists have described such mining as a 'key threatening process'.

The combined effluent discharge from both mines will be 43.8ML/day in 2023. This eco-toxic effluent will discharge 30.8 tonnes/day (or 11,247 tonnes/year) of metal-rich salts to the Cocks River that supplies the Blue Mountains and Sydney with drinking water. Protection of water, in this the driest continent on earth must be placed above anything else. Therefore if these expansions were to get the go ahead at all the discharge mentioned above must be treated using reverse osmosis technology to remove all metals and salts before discharge to the Cocks River.

Further:

- Carne Creek is currently in a pristine state, and its waters that flow through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are of the highest standard. This creek must not run bright orange, just like the Wolgan River after Centennial Coal wrecked it.
- Important terrestrial and stream environments in this significant part of the Gardens of Stone region must not be damaged by longwall mining but protected in a state conservation area.
- Centennial Coal must not be allowed to simply replicate the damage it has already caused to nationally threatened upland swamps on the Newnes Plateau for which it was required by the Commonwealth Government to pay \$1.45 million in reparations.
- The sandstone strata supporting the 22 nationally endangered swamps, including the 7 shrub swamps must not be fractured. (Angus Place Mine Extension)
- The proposed clearing of 14 hectares of forest for an additional ventilation facility is excessive and its proposed location close to the Wolgan River is unacceptable.
- The sandstone rock supporting the 41 nationally endangered swamps, including the 11 shrub swamps affected by the proposal must not be fractured. (Springvale Mine Extension.)
- The scenic western edge of the Newnes Plateau must be protected from further scarring by new roads, pipeline and electricity easements. (Springvale Mine Extension)
- Carne and Bungleboori Creeks, pagodas, cliffs and the many nationally endangered swamps that these proposals put at risk are not in the best interests of the environment and therefore the residents of the Greater Blue Mountains and surrounds, including those residing in Sydney and must not be allowed to be damaged.
- Given all of the above I would suggest that the The Angus Place and the adjoining Springvale mine extension proposals be subject to a Planning Assessment Commission review with concurrent Public Hearings.