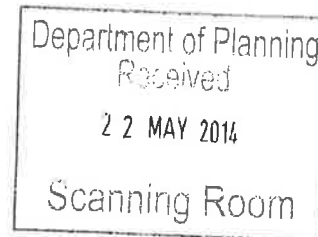


PCU53350



19 May 2014

Mining Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam

Centennial Coal's Angus Place and Springvale Mine Extension Projects

At its last meeting Lithgow City Council considered reports in relation to the proposed Angus Place and Springvale Mine extension projects and has resolved to unanimously support these projects.

Both of these are existing long-term mines located in the Lithgow local government area and together employing some 600 people.

It is both mine, and the view of the Council, that both of these developments have very strong community support. With this support I too feel very passionate about the projects and of the need for the extensions to be granted.

These mines have terrific economic benefits to the local area and also to the region. Mining across NSW generates a multi-billion dollar spend on wages and salaries, ongoing purchases of goods and services, as well as contributions to local communities. Council's own Economic Development Strategy acknowledges the crucial role that the mining sector has in underpinning the vitality of the Lithgow LGA economy.

The 2011 Census revealed that 11.6 % of total employment within the Lithgow LGA was provided through the mining industry compared to just 0.6% across NSW. This indicates that any reduction in mining industry employment will have a very significant impact on the Lithgow LGA economy and community well-being.

Regrettably there have been recent mine closures within the Lithgow area and this has been having an impact on the area including increased unemployment and a significantly reduced spend into regional and local businesses. This then has a flow on effect into uncertainty in the investment environment and diminishing community confidence. A continuing loss of local employment opportunities will erode population growth in Lithgow and further reduce demand for local goods and services. This is not a sustainable scenario for the future of Lithgow.

Approval of Centennial's Angus Place and Springvale Mine projects will represent a continuation of mining and securing of local jobs thus underpinning the Lithgow economy.

Over the very lengthy period that Centennial has been associated with the Lithgow area it has gained a wealth of experience in understanding the uniqueness of this area and managed environmental impacts well. Further to this Centennial has also been an exceptional corporate citizen to the area.

I would strongly urge that approval be given to the extension of both of these projects.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maree Statham', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Clr Maree Statham
MAYOR