

9 June, 2014

Angus Place Colliery PA06_0021 - Modification 4
Development of roadways and headings for L Ws 1001 and 1003

1. Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains totally opposes Modification 4 and would argue that consideration of this proposal should not proceed because it is, in fact, part of SSD 5602 and certainly should not be considered before that. Such would pre-empt the full assessment of SSD 5602 at a time when there is a possibility of SSD 5602 being referred to the Planning Assessment Commission. Approval of this project prior to a full assessment of SSD 5602 would be absolutely inappropriate and open the decision to much public criticism at a time when the whole approval process is being questioned and for good reason.

Stop CSG Blue Mountains has made a submission opposing SSD 5602 and it therefore follows that we would oppose this current Modification.

2. The proposed first workings being applied for under Modification 4 set up longwall mining of panels 1001 and 1003 that are wider than those previously approved and will lead to more environmental damage in the extremely environmentally sensitive Carne Creek catchment than was caused in the Wolgan River catchment.

3. Carne Creek is currently in a pristine condition and its waters that flow through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area are of the highest standard.

4. It would be a tragedy if Carne Creek ended up in the same condition as the Wolgan River which turned bright orange and suffered reduced flows following Centennial Coal's operations near there.

5. It appears that Centennial Coal is endeavoring to manipulate the planning system in order to gain a tactical benefit, ie to set the width of the longwalls as a precedent in the sensitive area proposed for future mining under SSD 5602 before the Planning Assessment Commisison has considered the major extension proposal.

6. It is clear that Centennial Coal is attempting to lock in the position of the regulatory authorities in regard to damaging mining in the sensitive Carne Creek area before the Planning Assessment Commission has made a decision on the issue.

7. Centennial Coal has presented no convincing case for the approval of Modification 4. It has not been able to show any serious detriment to the mining

operation should this application be rejected. The main advantage it would seem would be to put pressure on the Dept of Planning expedite the assessment and/or approval of SSD 5602.

8. The region affected by SSD 5602 and the related Springvale Extension contains some of the most important swamps on Newnes Plateau. The swamps are recognised under Federal and State legislation and longwall mining is an acknowledged threat to their integrity. As well as being an endangered ecological community, the swamps feed the headwater tributaries of Carne Creek, a pristine surface water system which is an integral part of the water supply for the Emirates Resourt and then flows into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area.

9. As past mining activities by Centennial have compromised parts of the groundwater and surface water systems of Newnes Plateau and could not be prevented given the nature of the mining activities, the same damage should not be allowed to be inflicted on the Carne Creek region.

10. Consultants have consistently sought to minimize the risks and resultant damage caused by Centennial's mining activities. The true picture has been exposed only by volunteer organisations who should not be responsible for trying to ensure that the truth is known. Consultants are less likely to be given work if their results do not meet a company's needs and it is not at all surprising that their reports endeavour to optimise the company's prospects of having their projects approved. It is therefore imperative that projects such as this are referred to the Planning and Assessment Commission.

In conclusion Stop CSG Blue Mountains believes that the environmental damage to the Carne Creek area is too great to justify approval of this project.

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for Stop Coal Seam Gas Blue Mountains