

June 10, 2014

Mining and Industry Projects NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission on Centennial Coal's Angus Place Colliery PA06_0021
Modification 4 Pre-emptive development of roadways and
headings for long-walls 1001 and 1003 - OPPOSED**

As a resident of the Blue Mountains I am very concerned about Centennial Coal's latest proposal PA06_0021, along with their SSD 5602 and related SSD 5594. Whilst 5602 and 5594 are separate proposals I include them in my submission as they do go 'hand in hand' and therefore must be treated together.

The region affected by these proposals contains some of the most important swamps on Newnes Plateau. The swamps are recognised under Federal and State legislation and long-wall mining is an acknowledged threat to their integrity. The swamps feed the headwater tributaries of Carne Creek, currently a pristine surface water system which feeds into the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The GBMWH is part of the drinking water catchment areas for the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Sydney and must be properly protected. Carne Creek must not run bright orange or suffer reduced flows, just like the Wolgan River after Centennial Coal destroyed it.

The fact Centennial Coal have already compromised parts of the groundwater and surface water systems of Newnes Plateau and the Enforceable Undertaking for \$1.45 million was in recognition of the damage caused by Centennial's mining activities shows their environmental track record is unacceptable. It would therefore be irresponsible of the Department of Planning to approve Centennial Coal's latest proposal PA06_0021, or proposals SSD 5602 and SSD 5594. At very least these proposals must be referred together to a Planning and Assessment Commission.

In addition to the above I ask The Department also take the following into consideration when assessing this proposal:

- Centennial Coal must not be allowed consent for Modification 4 over an area where first workings have already been sought and approved last year in a restricted manner that did not preempt decisions on the major extension by the Planning Assessment Commission.
- The proposed first workings being applied for under Modification 4 set up long-wall mining of panels 1001 and 1003 that are wider than those previously approved and will lead to more environmental damage in the sensitive Carne Creek catchment than was caused in the Wolgan River catchment.
- Centennial Coal is manipulating the planning system to gain a tactical benefit, namely to set the width of the long-walls as a precedent in the sensitive area proposed for future mining under SSD 5602 before the Planning Assessment Commission as considered the major extension proposal.
- Centennial Coal is attempting to “lock in” the position of regulatory authorities regarding damaging mining in this sensitive Carne Creek area before the Planning Assessment Commission has decided the matter.

Whilst appreciating the opportunity to do submissions to the Department of Planning on matters of concern, I would like to point out that residents are largely dependent on the unpaid volunteer experts, or the severely underfunded environmental organizations to supply us with the information to do these submissions. Companies on the other hand pay their experts and consultants and this must surely raise the question of the objectivity, independence and therefore supposed *unbiased* findings in their reports.

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