

## Airly Mines Extension Project

Application No. SSD 5581

Private Submission

The proposed mining is under the Mungii NSW State Reserve.

I have spent 12 weeks on and off camping in the reserve and have walked the length and breadth of the reserve with a map and compass.

I have attended nearly all community meeting engaged by Centennial Coal for this project. I have questioned Centennial Coal staff extensively. I have read all their material. I have read the EIS.

There is no evidence of subsidence throughout the reserve caused by the underground 100 year old pillar and post oil shale mine.

Therefore there should be no evidence of subsidence from the pillar and post Airly coal mine project.

There is however on top of Mount Airly expansion joints in the rock caused by the freezing and thawing of water.

The fall of turrets from the top of Mount Airly and Genowan Mountain has been caused by high winds. One of the mapped turrets on Genowan Mountain has been dislodged by high winds witnessed by myself.

Turrets (pagodas) do not fall due to subsidence.

Turrets are built like aircraft wings and act like aircraft wings during high winds giving lift off from the column of rock.

On the side of the escarpment of Airly and Genowan Mountains there are to be found very large rock split from the mountain by expansion joints. These will come down. There is also a turret perched on the precipice of Genowan Mountain ready to fall onto a building and access road beneath. The owners NPWS have been informed but have not taken the initiative to bring down the rock in the interest of WH&S laws.

I have read the Environmental Impact Statement. Can we send them all back to the drawing board and not pay them for wasting public monies? Can we have them charged for dealing their wages?

The EIS did not address the environmental architecture. The English introduced sheep and cattle and destroyed the environmental architecture the indigenous people had down pat. The English introduced drought, floods, bushfires and

firestorms. The question raised with Centennial Coal at the public meetings was "Does the mine infrastructures add or subtract from the environmental architecture?" The EIS does not tell us. The NSW and Federal Government's provide subsidies to the agricultural industry for droughts, floods, bushfires and firestorms all caused through their lack of appreciation for environmental architecture. "Will the NSW government be providing Centennial Coal with subsidies during drought, floods, bushfires and firestorms?" The water drained from the mining project can be stored and used during drought and bushfires.

The EIS does not discuss the impact of noise on the neighbours surround the mining project. "How much noise from the mining project is required to interfere with signals between grazer and working dogs?" "How much noise from the mining project is required to dislodge a rider from their horse?" The EIS does not tell us. Centennial Coal will require the need to know.

The EIS does not discuss the impact of dust on the neighbours surrounding the mining project. "How much coal dust is required to stop the chemical process of photosynthesis in plants?" "How much coal dust is required on plants to stop animals eating the plants?" "How much coal dust is required to stop microorganisms in the gut of animals breaking down complex polymers to sugars for animals to ingest?" Centennial Coal, graziers and NPWS will all need to know.

The EIS did not discuss emergency management procedures and responsibilities. There will be a large group of people working underground in the mine. Centennial Coal will provide all necessary skills to enhance safety and evacuation procedures. However what facilities and infrastructure will Centennial Coal require from the community in the event of an emergency? No one knows? What exterior skills and equipment will Centennial Coal require during an emergency? Will they require experience local senior first aiders on the surface? What is the response time for the local Capertee emergency management committee? Are they suitably equipped? It takes Chifly Emergency Management Committee 2 hours to mobilise to a meeting, then another hour to arrive at the scene. Example; during this time the bushfire is now a firestorm. What caused the fire did not cause the firestorm. Who is now to blame?

The EIS did not discuss the economic benefits to Capertee. Centennial Coal contracts businesses to install infrastructure at Airly Mine. These businesses do not live in Capertee. Apart from contracting the local bushfire service to provide a sausage sizzle Centennial has not employed any local businesses. "How much money will Centennial Coal inject into the Capertee local economy?" Centennial Coal will provide philanthropy to the RFS and the P&C Association and subcontractors may stay at the local pub and there may be a slight increase in trade at the local service station/ café but the EIS does not tell us.

Airly mines then becomes more a liability than an asset to the local community of Capertee. This is evident by the heavy fencing surrounding the mine and restriction in place to access.

“So what are the benefits to Capertee?”

They are;

- A supply of water for drought relief.
- Philanthropy – RFS and P&C
- Increase trade to pub and service station/café

### **Conclusion:**

**I support the Airly mines project because it will not interfere, add nor subtract from anything in the Capertee district that has not already occurred.**

It took me 4 days to approve or refuse an application for a new oil price while working for the Department of Minerals and Energy in 1985 and I had to write my own computer programs and draw my own 3D underground diagrams and write a ministerial brief. It takes you 6 years. WHY?

### **Recommendations**

- That NPWS remove rock from the precipices that will fall anyway in the reserve before mining commences.
- That the NSW Government provides a water pipeline from the spring at the base of Genowan Mountain to Capertee including the camping reserve at Mungii.
- The NSW Government provide Centennial Coal with a grant to provide water storage for drought relief.
- That the NSW Government provide funding and training of senior first aiders and necessary equipment for a rapid response to any emergency surrounding Capertee – car, bus, plane, earthquake, fire, flood or mine emergency.
- That the NSW Government provides training to the mining and agricultural industries to restore the environmental architecture surrounding Capertee.
- That all public servants start working for their wages and reduce the time from application to mining from 6 years to 3 years.
- That all public servants including the Gate Way Panel are charged for stealing their wages under the Crimes Act.
- That all the people who wrote the EIS return all funding for not carrying out the project they were hired to do.

- Scape the EIS and all the feedback because no one in government takes a scape of notice about what is said because they do not understand science or commerce.