

### **Support of Airly Mine Extension Project**

I support the project for the Airly Mine Extension Project to continue underground coal mining in their current mining lease ML 1331 and carry out future mining in their current exploration area A232.

The Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area is ecologically and visually a spectacular region. The mining method developed is a superb example of how underground coal mining and environmental protection can co-exist and that mining can be carried out with the end purpose of protecting significant surface features. The mining method has been developed with both avoidance and minimisation of environmental impacts in mind.

The partial extraction mining method has been tried and tested for numerous years at Centennial Coal's Clarence Colliery, with negligible impacts occurring to the surface features of the Wollangambe wilderness' cliff lines, pagoda formations and groundwater and surface water systems.

The identification of potential environmental impacts and the environmental assessment developed has been both proficient and thorough and the partial extraction mine design has been expertly developed to allow coal extraction whilst still minimising these potential impacts.

With further mine closures in the western coal fields due to the down turn in coal and electricity markets and the rejection of project applications based on impacts to the community and environment, the Airly Mine Extension Project, if approved, will be a astonishing example that underground coal mining can not only be productive and safe but at the same time avoid and minimise impacts to the environment and the community. The approval of this project will be a win-win all round with Centennial Coal's partial extraction methods that have a proven history in previously mined areas in the western coal fields.

I am in full support of all facets of the Airly Coal Mine Project and hope after careful consideration of the project that continued mining at Airly Mine is approved.

Yours sincerely,

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