

Development Assessment Systems and Approvals  
Dept of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

30 October 2014

Dear Sirs,

Re: Centennial Airly Pty Ltd Airly Mine Extension Project Ref SSD 12-5581

This letter is by way of a submission against the granting of the extension applied for by Centennial Airly Pty Ltd. My submission is about the unrelenting fear and terror felt by the landholders in the Capertee Valley while we face the threat of losing our livelihood, our water, our lifestyle and our peace of mind.

I moved lock, stock and barrel into the Capertee Vally to commence an alpaca breeding program early in 2002. I invested in excess of \$1,000,000 in setting up this operation and have enjoyed ongoing success in breeding ultrafine and superfine alpaca fleece and bloodstock, investing in the best females and stud males available in both Australia and overseas. I've built fences, put in kilometres of irrigation lines, sunk a solar powered bore, built stables and yards, and put in 4 extra water tanks. I have put in an orchard, growing my own fruit and nuts, and producing jams, chutneys and relishes which are sold at the Rylstone Producers markets and at the Saffron Kitchen. I take my stewardship of the land very seriously and seek to leave it in better shape than when I took it over. I have 5 site specific conservation areas on my property. I have put in 2 raised garden beds and produce a large percentage of my own fruit and vegetables. I have invested in my own education in many aspects of farm management and planning, pasture management, natural resource management, organic farming, soil enhancement, chemical and pest management training, alpaca health and breeding and alpaca genetics over more than 12 years. I currently and have done for ten years written articles for both local and international alpaca magazines.

I had looked forward to at least 10 more years and then retiring with the gains I'd made with hard work and effort. I feel there is a very real possibility that I may lose what I have invested and end up with little or no superannuation if the value of my enterprise is compromised in any way. Loss of high quality water, significant drop in land or property value.

My concerns are these. Where is the agricultural impact report in the EIS? Specifically as pertains to groundwater. I would draw your attention to the report written by Andrea Broughton, Independent Hydrologist dated 29 October 2014. Where are the base readings and guidelines for groundwater quality and quantity from before the first approval was given? How do we determine what deterioration has already occurred and will continue if approval is given to this extension? I have grave concern for the interconnectivity between aquifers that may occur with all the drilling and mining and the fracturing of rock leading to subsidence in what is a fragile environment. We need a complete mapping of the aquifers in the Capertee Valley and this should be referred to NSW Office of Water. I have had met with the Water Commissioner on three separate occasions to point out my concerns. The onus shouldn't be on the individual landholders to prove that the mining company is at fault and has caused damage to their livelihood and the environment. I fear we may all lose our supply of potable water, for ourselves, our animals and our vegetable gardens and orchards.

I would draw your attention to the submission written by Philip Pells from Pells Consulting dated 23 Oct 2014 to EDO re: subsidence and groundwater, specifically the omissions in the EIS from Centennial Airly Pty Ltd. Why are there no dust monitors to the east and south east of the mine? With a prevailing north-westerly wind blowing most of the year, current and envisaged dust and noise monitoring is not positioned to cover the east side of the valley. My property starts about 6-7 kilometres from the proposed Airly Mine extension and good knows when the dust comes it can travel from here to Sydney in adverse conditions. I propose the monitoring should cover at least all of the Capertee Valley.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know this valley has high levels of biodiversity and geodiversity value to rival the best in the world. 60% of the endangered and vulnerable fauna and flora in NSW are found here in the Capertee Valley. If we keep planting trees at the rate we have been it will be an area where some species could be reintroduced, but only if we take our stewardship of the land and environment seriously. It should be designated a no-go area as far as mining is concerned before we lose more of our heritage.

If there is an overflow event from sediment dams or other storage areas (there has already been two such events) risking pollution of our waterways it will affect local creeks and rivers and this being the head of the Sydney catchment there could be serious results. The EIS refers to 80% of water being recycled so do they really need such large volumes of water as those allocated? The coal stockpile is already an eyesore when you enter the valley, how much worse will it be with approval of this extension?

I would like to see very specific conditions attached to this approval, if given, specifically as regards dust and noise level monitoring in the entire valley, specifics as regard to compensation to landholders for any and all loss of water and water quality, and loss of pasture quality. This should include all railway coal trucks to be covered, both full and empty. I think these conditions should also extend and specify how the land has to be remediated and rehabilitated after mining is finished and ongoing, including soil testing and aquifer monitoring and the success of revegetation for at least 10 years with high monetary penalties for non-compliance. This to be monitored by independent entities decided by Dept. of Planning not the coal mining company, not self regulated and reported.

I thank you for the opportunity to send a submission and look forward to the outcome.

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Wendys Country Foods

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