

48 Mudgee Street
Rylstone NSW 2849

31 October 2014

NSW Government
Department of Planning and Environment
Sydney NSW

Dear Sir/Madam

**Submission: Proposed Airly Mine Extension Project, Application No. SSD 12
- 5581**

As a landholder in the Capertee Valley near Glen Alice, I am concerned about the potential impact of the proposed Airly Mine Extension on surface and groundwater.

Please find attached my submission to the proposed Airly Mine Extension.

Yours faithfully

Hilary Crawford

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I have been a landholder in the Capertee Valley since 1999 and currently own 80 hectares near Glen Alice.

The Capertee Valley has a grand beauty. It is surrounded by sandstone cliffs, includes areas of white and yellow box grassy woodland and has an abundance of bird life. It has been declared an internationally important birdwatching area and is home to some 80 threatened species, as well as the endangered Regent Honeyeater. The Valley also has a number of agricultural enterprises including livestock (beef cattle, sheep, alpacas, horses and goats), native plants, lucerne, olives and saffron.

I wish to object to the proposed Airly Mine Extension on the following grounds:

Contaminated surface water

The extended Airly Mine operation is likely to result in an increase in environmentally damaging mine waste water including increased salinity, phosphorous, nitrogen, nickel and zinc. This will affect local creeks and may have a negative impact on wildlife. In addition, access to clean water is critical for livestock: contaminated water could have a serious impact on the local livestock industry.

Groundwater modelling

The groundwater numerical data is weak and has not been independently reviewed.

GDH have used average rainfall data from the Bureau of Meteorology weather station at Ilford, some 29 kilometres north-west of the Airly Mine, as input into the groundwater numerical model. Ilford receives substantially more rain than Mt Airly and Genowlan Mountain so cannot be considered to have a similar rainfall pattern. Using Ilford rainfall data will lead to an overestimation of the aquifer recharge and an underestimation of the salt load (Groundwater Solutions International review, 6.0).

It is also possible that bores in the catchment may be affected. 'GDH have not collected enough monitoring data and have not adequately set up the groundwater model to determine how realistic this scenario might be' (Groundwater Solutions International 9.0).

According to Australian Groundwater Modelling Guidelines, the groundwater model should be independently reviewed. An independent review has not been included in the EIS and supporting documents (Groundwater Solutions International, 8.0).

Conditions should the project go ahead

Should the Airly Mine Extension Project go ahead, I would like to suggest that the following conditions be imposed:

Discharged pollutants should be independently monitored

Independent monitoring of water quality and monitoring of compliance with licence conditions to ensure the regulation of all discharged pollutants should be a condition of approval. Pollutants should be limited, based on sound scientific assessment, to avoid any negative impacts further downstream. This monitoring should be independently and adequately funded and licence conditions should be strongly enforced.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.