

30 October 2014

Colin Phillips and Thomas Watt
Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Mr Phillips and Mr Watt,

**Re: Application SSD12_5581 Airly Mine Extension Project
Objection to proposed development**

Our property is on the Capertee River in the Capertee Valley. We are downstream from the proposed extension of the Airly Mine by Centennial Coal.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of the proposed development on the ground water and surface water volumes, quality and flows. We absolutely rely on these for the ongoing viability of our farming and grazing enterprise.

The proposed extension of the Airly Mine covers a massive area (Authorisation 232) possibly corresponding to the "Project Application Area" in Fig 1-3 in GHD Report for Environmental Impact Statement-Groundwater Impact Assessment 22/16787. It is unclear from this diagram whether underground works are proposed to extend beyond the coloured area to the red border shown. The proposed duration of the project is 25 years.

It would be easily foreseeable that such a massive operation covering over 3000 hectares and lasting a quarter of a century is likely to lead to certain adverse events.

Foreseeably, if the project were to go ahead, there would be a degradation in the quality and flow of both surface and groundwater in the Capertee Valley and on our property. The events leading to this degradation would occur possibly intermittently but the overall effect would be to deprive the Capertee Valley of good quality water for a generation and beyond.

Foreseeably, there will be times of high environmental temperature, high surface evaporation, and reduced precipitation. This would create a situation where, if the Airly Mine Expansion were to go ahead, a natural environmental event would be significantly compounded by a man-made disaster, further reducing water flows and volumes, and likely increasing the concentration of any contaminants in what water there was available.

Foreseeably, this will result in loss of productivity and potentially a loss of viability of all the farming and grazing enterprises downstream and within the groundwater sources of the mine.

We request that the Department of Planning and Environment consider enforcing a condition on the proposed extended Airly Mine that the mine be put into a "care and maintenance" phase in a timely fashion during periods of

drought and El Ninio events and during the recovery period that follows. Water not used during “care and maintenance” phase would flow downstream from their facility and reenter the aquifer . The aim would be to maintain the viability of the enterprises in the area.

We request that any loss of flows or quality be assessed independently and publicly and that any loss of production consequent on loss of flows or quality be compensated financially by Centennial Coal directly to the landowners so as to maintain the viability of their enterprises and to keep them on their land.

Many thanks for your consideration.
Kind regards