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The CFMEU (the Union) has reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Springvale Coal Pty Ltd for its Mine Extension Project, and wishes to advise NSW Planning and Infrastructure of its strong support for the continued operations of the Springvale Mine.

In particular, the continuation of operations for a further 13 years will provide significant benefits not only to the local Lithgow community, but also to both New South Wales and the Commonwealth. These are discussed in more detail below.

Mining is the largest employment group in the local community and is therefore of vital importance to employment within the local area. The continuation of the Springvale Mine will secure the employment of the current workforce of 310, with nearly 76% of these living in the Lithgow Local Government area. As a result, the Springvale Mine provides an important positive contribution to the local community through employee remuneration.

Through the EA, it is clear that securing the future of the Springvale Mine will provide a major economic benefit to the local community. Direct employment benefit alone is \$647 million with a total economic benefit of \$902 million. These are very significant benefits, particularly when compared to the recent EA submitted by Coalpac Pty Ltd (administrators appointed) for the modification of its mines in the same local area. Centennial is a natural supplier to the power stations and is the unions preferred supplier because of the significant number of local jobs Centennial mine's support.

If the proposed extension is not approved, the Springvale Mine will cease operations in 2015, resulting in a significant reduction to local mining jobs – the largest employment sector within the area. As a large supplier of domestic coal this would also impact the Mt Piper Power Station, who would need to source coal from other locations or coal that would otherwise be exported, potentially impacting the cost of electricity production and the price of electricity in New South Wales.

For these reasons the Union supports the EIS, which will secure local jobs and continue to underpin not only the local economy but also the economy of New South Wales.

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