

SUBMISSION Re Springvale Mine Extension (SSD 12-5594)

It is vital that this proposal be revised by *Centennial Coal* to improve environmental outcomes. Carne & Bungleboori Creeks, pagodas, cliffs and the many nationally endangered swamps that the current proposal risk damage to underlying bedrock from subsidence and water table disturbance due to fracturing from proposed mining works.

- **Threat from Longwall Mining** – This area is contiguous with the *World Heritage* listed *Gardens of Stone*. Important terrestrial and stream environments in this unique region must not be damaged by longwall mining but instead protected in a *State Conservation Area*.
- **Further Damage to Upland Swamps** – The damage already inflicted to nationally threatened upland swamps on the Newnes Plateau nearby by *Centennial Coal* must not be allowed to be repeated. *Centennial* was required by the Commonwealth Government to pay reparations of \$1.45 million and this can never restore the original forest landscape.
- **Fracturing** - The sandstone strata supporting the 22 nationally endangered swamps, including the 7 shrub swamps must not be fractured. This will lead to damage to the water table. It will also destabilize the pagoda formations leading to collapses and destruction.
- **Clearing** - Clearing of 14 hectares of forest as proposed for an additional ventilation facility is manifestly excessive and its siting close to the Wolgan River is unsuitable.
- **Water Treatment** - The proposed discharge of up to 43.8ML/day of eco-toxic mine effluent must be treated using reverse osmosis technology to remove all metals and salts before discharge to the Coxs River. The successful case mounted by *Blue Mountains Conservation Society* against *Delta Electricity* in 2011 demonstrates the necessity of preserving the purity of Sydney's water supply. *Delta* is liable for very expensive restitution works.
- **Water quality** - Carne Creek is currently in a pristine state, and its waters that flow through the *Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area* are of the highest standard. This creek must not run bright orange or suffer reduced flows, just like the Wolgan River after *Centennial Coal* wrecked it.
- **PAC Review & Public Hearings** – Given the above reasons and the enormous public concerns about mining projects with the current *ICAC* investigations, the *Springvale* and the adjoining *Angus Place* mine extension proposals must be subject to a *Planning Assessment Commission* review with Public Hearings held concurrently.

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