

Springvale United Mine Workers

UNITED MINEWORKERS
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Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

19 May 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Springvale Mine Extension Project (SSD 5594)

From our review of the Springvale Mine Extension Project, the CFMEU has examined the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Centennial Springvale and wishes to advise the Department of Planning and Environment of its strong support for continued operations at Springvale Mine.

In particular, there are significant social and economic advantages which will sustain the benefits gained by the local community of Lithgow, in addition to bringing crucial economic benefits to both New South Wales and the Commonwealth. These are discussed in more detail below.

Social Impacts

Lithgow has a long history with mining. Today the economic base of Lithgow continues to be recognised as being the energy and resources sector. This sector has long been a major employer and subsequently makes a significant contribution to the overall local economy. Sustainable growth in this sector continues to provide other flow-on effects for local support services via direct and indirect employment opportunities. This is occurring across a number of non-energy and resources sectors such as retail and accommodation.

Of crucial importance is the fact that local coal mining employs the highest percentage of the working population (approximately 12.3%), which is clear evidence that mining is the main source of employment within the local area.

This considerable proportion of direct employment highlights the importance of Springvale Mine being able to sustain local employment levels and in turn support the local community through employee remuneration. If approved, over 300 direct jobs will be sustained.

Economic Impacts

From the EIS, it is apparent that a major economic benefit resulting from the Project would be continued stimulus to the local Lithgow economy in addition to the state and Commonwealth. If the Project is approved, Springvale Mine will continue the employment opportunities for over 300 local people and provide wages, royalties and flow-on effects with a net economic benefit of approximately \$902 million in to the local, regional, state and national economies.

If the Project is not approved the extraction of coal at Springvale Mine would cease, sterilising the coal resource leading to the premature loss of jobs and early mine closure. This would result in a significant reduction of local mining jobs – the largest employment sector within the locality.

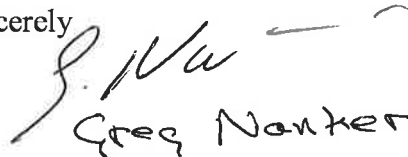
Environmental Impacts

As is apparent in the EIS, Springvale Mine is a well-established underground coal operation with well-defined surface and mining environments. Due to knowledge gained from historical operations, Springvale Mine has an excellent understanding of mine design principles and requirements for the protection of surface features and management of potential environmental impacts. The mine design, which has been successfully implemented in previous mining areas with minimal adverse impacts, shows that Springvale Mine is committed to achieving sustainable development.

Conclusion

The CFMEU supports the Project proposed by Centennial Springvale based on the significant social and economic benefits to be derived from sustained operations.

Yours sincerely



Greg Nankervis Vice President

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South Western District