

**Submission for
State Significant Project - Springvale Mine Extension (SSD 12_5594)**

10-15 years ago I could drive out on Newnes Plateau and all I could see was a magnificent environment of pristine bushland that could be enjoyed for its peaceful beauty. Now there is a proliferation of borehole sites, power lines, ventilation sites, pipelines, more roads, monitoring equipment etc. The list goes on. The degradation should not be allowed to increase even further as is proposed.

Government needs to step up once and for all and act responsibly to protect the unique biodiversity on Newnes Plateau, including the EEC's.

I object to the proposed Springvale Mine Extension for the reasons listed below.

- The unique environment of Newnes Plateau including swamps, pagodas, and streams in this significant part of the Gardens of Stone region must not be damaged by longwall coal mining but instead protected in a state conservation area. This should be a priority of the Government.
- The Springvale and the adjoining Angus Place mine extension proposals must be subject to a Planning Assessment Commission review with concurrent Public Hearings. It is critical to have an independent view.
- Centennial Coal must not be allowed to simply replicate the damage it has already caused to nationally threatened upland swamps on the Newnes Plateau for which it was required by the Commonwealth Government to pay \$1.45 million in reparations. There is no evidence that this damage will not occur under all the swamps in the extension proposal. The sandstone rock supporting the 41 nationally endangered swamps, including the 11 shrub swamps affected by the proposal must not be fractured.
- The proposed discharge of up to 43.8 megalitres/day eco-toxic mine effluent must be treated by reverse osmosis technology to remove all metals and salts before discharge to the Cocks River.
- The scenic western edge of the Newnes Plateau must be protected from further scarring by new roads, pipeline and electricity easements.
- 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 be ruined like the Wolgan River was.
- Longwall panel LW501 on the north side of Marrangaroo Creek is about 40% overlain by a rocky spur, which is also in the area of thinnest depth of cover. This is bound to cause damage to the rock formations there.
- Centennial should be required to revise this proposal to improve environmental outcomes. Carne, Marrangaroo and Bungleboori Creeks, pagodas, cliffs and the many nationally endangered swamps must not be damaged. The biggest shrub swamp (and magnificent rock formations at its edge) in Marrangaroo Creek is near all above the proposed longwall panels.



Newnes Plateau shrub swamp in Marrangaroo Creek above a proposed longwall panel.



Marrangaroo Creek with shrub swamp and pagoda rock formations



ROTAP listed Pagoda Daisies