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22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016



Mining and Industry Projects  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001



Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission on the Springvale Water Treatment proposal (SSD 16\_7592)**

The Springvale water treatment proposal must be greatly improved if it is to adequately protect the Coxs River catchment, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area and Sydney's drinking water resources. Mine water must not be simply treated to a minimum standard and released into a highly contaminated part of the catchment.

In support of these contentions I am enclosing a copy of my work, "The Gardens of Stone National Park and beyond", book 4. As well as a summary of the major catchments in the area, this book includes a substantial contribution by Dr Ian A Wright, School of Science and Health, University of Western Sydney. Dr Wrights work includes detailed water analysis of key water ways and is of particular relevance to the Springvale Water Treatment proposal.

Wangcol Creek is highly degraded and discharges from the proposed treatment plant would send a plume of salt down the Coxs River.

The treatment proposal must maximise mine water use by storing it for future periods of high demand by the Mt Piper Power Plant. Water treatment must be decoupled from the power plant's coal consumption to prevent a perverse outcome where a reduction in coal-fired electricity generation would cause an increase in mine water pollution.

The water treatment plant must not be built for discharge. It can be designed as a closed system with appropriate storage of treated mine water in Thompsons Creek Reservoir. It has sufficient capacity to accommodate mine water from both Springvale and Clarence mines for future power plant use.

To take advantage of future mine water transfer upgrades, the proposed pipeline from Springvale to the Mt Piper power plant should have sufficient capacity to accommodate mine water from the Clarence Colliery.

Runoff from the Springvale Coal Services and fly ash emplacement areas also must be collected and treated for use in the power plant.

Any additional pipeline construction on Newnes Plateau for the mine water transfers must follow the existing pipeline alignment to minimise further damage to endangered ecological communities and pagoda landscapes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Keats', written over a faint blue circular line.

Michael Keats, OAM  
Bushwalker, Explorer and Speaker