

Northern Coal Services
Northern Coal Logistics Project
SSD-5145

I support Centennial Coal's Northern Coal Logistics project.

My Partner is a proud employee of Centennial Coal. We both grew up in the Cessnock and now reside in Newcastle. Our families have a long and proud coal mining history in both the Cessnock and Lake Macquarie areas. Together we have two young children aged 8 and 10. I work locally at an environmental firm, close to our home and our children's school. We are well ingrained in our community.

Our family is involved in many local community organisations. My partner plays cricket with a local club and has a position on the committee. My partner, and sometimes the whole family, attends many Centennial sponsored community events throughout the year, all in our family's own time. We see this as an important way for us as a family to give back to the local community and support my partner's employer.

Our children are also very active within our community. They are both in the surf lifesaving club at Cooks Hill, my partner is also one of the age managers for their Nippers training. Our daughter is a wonderful singer, she has a local tutor and takes part in many singing groups, including this year the Carols by Candlelight at Lambton Park. She also learns piano and flute with local tutors. Our son loves his soccer, he plays soccer in the winter with the Cooks Hill club and plays Futsal in the summer months. He has started cricket with the junior club that his dad plays for. He is also a budding musician and learns guitar with a local tutor.

It frightens us to see the recent rejection of the Drayton South mine project and the thousands of good honest people currently losing their jobs in the Hunter Valley, Lithgow and Queensland, we are not sure what we will do if this happens to us.

We constantly see in the local press, media stories that are anti-mining and anti-coal. Through our involvement in the local community we have many other local families as friends. The majority of these families work in either coal mines, industries that support coal mines or realise that their employment relies on the wages that are spent by those in mining or mining related jobs. Where are these people who don't support mining in our community? What percentage of our community are these anti-mining people? How many come from outside of our community? It is a classic example of the quiet majority being impacted by the outspoken minority. This is one of the main reasons why I am putting in this submission.

I am amazed that over the past 2-3 years of the current mining downturn, that while Centennial has closed four (4) mines, they have managed to minimise job losses. This is a credit to Centennial's loyalty toward their employees, something you don't often see these days. I hear my partner talk about the tens of millions of dollars that Centennial has spent improving their environmental management, particularly with water at the Newstan site. Watching my partner play cricket recently against the team from Toronto I noted that they are sponsored by Centennial, I am also aware of many other local sponsorships in the West Lakes area including the local Rugby League side, schools, Men's Shed and Meals on Wheels to name a few. All this indicates to me that Centennial Coal is an excellent corporate citizen in our community.

In summary, to us as a family, this project is extremely important. Our family's way of life and our ability to continue to live in our wonderful community rely on Centennial Coal's projects being approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Kylie Lewis