

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

Airly Mine Modification to Development Consent DA 162/91

I object to the Airly Mine Modification 3.

The Modification 3 Proposal should not be approved in its current form.

I would like to make the following observations/comments:

® The environmental standards of Consent 162/91 are no longer appropriate, and any future mining should be subject to today's standards. Specifically, full extraction and subsidence of 1.8m is not acceptable, especially in a State Conservation area: one that has world significant pagoda rock formations, and Endangered Ecological Communities.

® The Airly Mine Environmental Assessment (June 2014) states that there will only be first workings carried out during the proposed Modification period of one year, and that negligible ground subsidence will occur. What I want to see is a guarantee that the same will be done after the Mod period, i.e. if and when the Mine Extension goes ahead.

i.e. I do not want to see any future full extraction in the mining area, as this could cause up to 1.8m subsidence and the associated surface damage to biodiversity and geodiversity, as well as affecting surface and ground water flows.

® The proposed operations under Modification 3 are very likely to discharge pollution into Airly Creek. Water treatment of the effluent from this colliery to remove salts or dissolved metals should be considered. The potential to pollute the World Heritage Area *should be deemed to be a controlled action*

® The Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area, in which the mining area is situated, should be fully protected from subsidence damage.

® The Airly oil shale ruins near Airly Gap (recognised by the NSW Heritage Office) are of unique historic value and should be fully protected and not damaged by mine subsidence. They should be in an Environmental Protection Zone.

® Potential Impacts on the Airly-Genowlan mesa, which is a possible future addition to the World Heritage Area, should be avoided as much as possible. This can be achieved with conservative mine designs to minimise impacts.

® *The Environmental Assessment Executive Summary states:*

“As a result of the mine design criteria, the Modification is anticipated to pose negligible environmental impacts and less than those previously assessed and approved under DA 162/91.”

But then further on (the last sentence) the Executive Summary states:

“Based on the subsidence assessment undertaken to support this application, the Modification is anticipated to pose negligible environmental impacts, and as such poses negligible impacts beyond those already approved under DA 162/91.”

Those two statements do not mean the same thing. So the intent is not clear.

As I said above, in this day and age there should be negligible damage to a State Conservation Area, and the standards of the old approval are not appropriate for any future mining in the Airly-Genowlan area.

Greater environmental protection is required, and no full extraction should be permitted from now on.

The EA states that there will be “negligible environmental consequences” as a result of the Modification. but it is not clearly stated whether it is intended to do full extraction later on, which if carried out would have major subsidence affects for half or more of the mining area.

I would like this clarified. i.e. will there be widespread full extraction after the period of the Modification? (in the areas shown on Figure 5)

If so, then the “negligible” impact of the Modification is just temporary, as it is just the first workings to be later followed up with second workings and full extraction which will have major detrimental environment impacts to the environmentally sensitive Mugii Murum-ban SCA.

® Page 13of the EA states:

“No mining is proposed in the area of A232 that is not within ML1331 under this modification.”

I do not want to see any further future mining in the Area Excluded from DA162/91 initial Consent Area as shown in Figure 5 of the Environmental Assessment. This includes the main part of Genowlan Mountain. i.e. no future mining to the east of the current Project Application Area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this referral.

6th July 2014