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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Submission as an Objection - Airly Colliery DA 162/91 Modification 3
Existing Consent Conditions are Inappropriate**

I object strongly to the proposed Modifications to Consent for Airly Colliery for the following reasons :

- **Out-of-date Consent** This colliery is already operating under development consent over 23 years old. It is out-of-date and inappropriate and lacking the necessary environmental safeguards for coal mining in a State Conservation Area. It's clear that this modification proposal to extend the consent should be either refused or varied to protect against mine subsidence. Any consent should specify extremely low levels of surface movements.
- **Existing subsidence levels** Subsidence under the 1991 development consent of 1.8m is totally unacceptable - there must be no exceptions to following limits: vertical subsidence being a maximum of 125mm, a maximum tilt of 2.5 mm/m; and a maximum strain of 2.0 mm/m.
- **Water quality** I am concerned about the failure to consider downstream impacts on the World Heritage Area in the Modification 3 proposal, operations proposed under Modification 3 can discharge water pollution into Airly Creek. Such discharges would impact on the Gardens of Stone National Park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Treatment of the effluent from Airly Colliery to remove all salts and dissolved metals from water by reverse osmosis must be required for any discharge to a World Heritage listed property downstream.
- **Heritage values** The historic Oil Shale Ruins are one of the best preserved heritage sites of their kind in NSW and are of special significance. Any coal mining that does not fully protect these historical Oil Shale Ruins from any form of coal pillar extraction must not be permitted.
- **World Heritage** The World Heritage Advisory Committee have stated that the Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area should be added to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area once mining has been completed. Obviously, it should be disturbed as little as possible to maintain its integrity.



- **Rehabilitation** Tourism is developing as a major local industry. Visually prominent waste & product heaps from the mine must be appropriately screened and landscaped to blend in with surrounding parks and popular tourist destinations in the Capertee Valley, such as Pearsons Lookout.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please do not allow this damaging Modification and protect our environment and heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Humble

8th July, '14

