



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Our reference : DOC13/29350 AC 1305
Our contact : Jacqueline Reid ph: (02) 4784 7326

Referral Business Entry Point, EIA Policy Section (EPBC Act)
Approvals and Wildlife Division
Department of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email: epbc.referrals@environment.gov.au

To Referral Business Entry Point,

**Re: Centennial Airly Pty Ltd/Mining/approximately 3kms NE
Capertee/NSW/Airly Mine Extension Project, NSW
Reference Number: 2013/6891**

The Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (GBMWhA) Advisory Committee has been appointed jointly by Commonwealth and State Environment Ministers to advise on matters relating to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of the GBMWhA. The GBMWhA was inscribed in the World Heritage List on the basis of its outstanding natural values.

The GBMWhA contains outstanding examples of ongoing ecological and biological processes significant in the evolution of Australia's highly diverse ecosystems and communities of plants and animals, and significant natural habitats for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, including the eucalypts and eucalypt dominated communities and many rare and threatened plants and animals. The Advisory Committee is concerned that developments, both within and on lands surrounding the GBMWhA, should not impact detrimentally on these World Heritage values.

The Advisory Committee thanks the Department of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities for the opportunity to make comment on the EPBC Referral Centennial Airly Pty Ltd Airly Mine Extension Project, Reference Number: 2013/6891 and makes the following comments:

Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area has superb geodiversity and biodiversity values and is included in an area which is currently being assessed by the Advisory Committee for National Heritage Values as a precursor to formal consideration by the Australian Heritage Council and potential renomination to the World Heritage List of an expanded GBMWhA. It is therefore important to ensure that the highly significant biodiversity and geodiversity values of the area are not damaged.



**Office of
Environment & Heritage**
NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service



Only found at the tip of Genowlan Point, the *Pultenaea* sp. 'Genowlan Point' is endemic to NSW and is a Critically Endangered Species under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 and the *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act* 1999. Proposals for 'partial extraction' – which may be up to 70% of coal – using 'panel and pillar' (not bord and pillar) run the real risk of cliff collapse under the stunning 90 metre sheer cliffs of Genowlan Point, risking extinction of this critical species.

Potential cliff collapse, as a result of this proposed project, will also put at risk the *Allocasuarina nana* Genowlan Point heathland, a community of dwarf heathland, listed as an Endangered Ecological Community under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995 and found only on Genowlan Point.

In order to avoid these potential impacts, the Advisory Committee strongly advises that mining should not be permitted immediately under the high cliffs of Genowlan Point, and that partial extraction of coal be limited to 50% in other areas.

Should you or your staff require further information, please contact our Executive Officer, Jacqueline Reid via email to jacqueline.reid@environment.nsw.gov.au or by telephone to 4784 7326.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Mackay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping 'R' and 'M'.

Prof Richard Mackay, AM
Chair
Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee

19/06/2013