

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



Department of Planning  
Received  
10 JUL 2014  
Scanning Room

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Of key concern is the fact that although Centennial Coal state they adopt subsidence criteria that would result in minimal subsidence impact, they are applying for a simple time extension of DA162/91 which has consent conditions that allow for subsidence of up to 1.8m. This is totally unacceptable. Should Mod 3 be approved it must be with altered consent conditions of maximum tilts and strains that align with Centennial's stated adopted practice as specified on page "I" of the executive summary and on page 29 in section 6.1 of the EA. There must be no exceptions to vertical subsidence being a maximum of 125mm, a maximum tilt of 2.5 mm/m; and a maximum strain of 2.0 mm/m.

Other concerns are

- No mention of possible impacts of discharge water downstream in the nearby World Heritage Area;
- No mention of screening visually prominent waste and product heaps. These are an eyesore especially from Pearsons Lookout, one of the most spectacular look outs in NSW. Such screening must be made a condition of consent;
- No mention of top sealing coal waste piles to prevent contamination of groundwater resources through heap leaching. Such leaching leads to more or less permanent source of downstream pollution. Such top sealing should be made a condition of consent.

Finally we note a number of inaccuracies in the EA

- P.6: under Land Use and Ownership there is no mention of tourism which is a growing industry within the area.
- p.12 states no change to employment of 120 personnel when in fact currently there are only 59 employed (information from Centennial's payroll office on 3/7/2014).
- P.33 mentions *placing longer term employment options for a recently employed workforce at risk*. The "recently employed" workforce is in fact largely a long term Centennial workforce relocated from Centennial's Charbon mine. In addition such concern appears a little hypocritical given Centennial had no compunction in laying off truly "recently employed" workers (2009 when Airly commenced operations) after only three years when the mine was placed into care and maintenance in Dec 2012. That move enabled Centennial to relocate their long term workforce from Charbon when that mine's underground operations closed in March 2014, something that had been long planned.
- P.26 states *No European heritage sites have been identified in the proposed mining area for this Modification*, even though the EA mentions protecting a stone cottage which is marked on Figure 6: Surface Sensitive Features. However this same Figure 6 does not mark the very significant heritage sites of the old Torbane Colliery workings and the New Hartley Shale mine workings. Given Modification 3 is for extension of the original DA one would think some mention of these very important and sensitive sites should be made. These sites are an important attraction within the within Muggii Murum-ban State Conservation Area and are accessible to almost everyone via the track now known as the Tramway Trail. They are an asset of huge value to the local community.

I agree with the World Heritage Advisory Committee recommendation that the Airly-Genowlan mesas should be added to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area once mining has been completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely, Peter B Docker 39 Razorback Road, Running Stream NSW 2850  
Phone – 02 63588276 Email – pbdocker@harboursat.com.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. B. Docker', written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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I am a local resident and have been visiting Mt. Airly and the historic village for many years. This is an asset of huge value to the local community, and is accessible to almost everyone via the track now known as the Tramway Trail, within Mugii Murum-ban State Conservation Area. It is a fabulous walk that is accessible to almost everyone, with nature, wonderful views and historic heritage all in the one location. Our access and safety while visiting the Mt. Airly area should not be compromised by mine subsidence.

Centennial Coal assure us that subsidence will be minimal but while ever they continue to operate under the existing out-dated 1991 conditions they can legally drop the ground level by up to 1.8 metres which will potentially cause cliff collapses and subsidence. Our access will then be blocked indefinitely for safety reasons, and natural and scenic values will be lost for all time.

I agree with the World Heritage Advisory Committee recommendation that the Airly-Genowlan mesas should be added to the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area once mining has been completed.

I am concerned that coal heaps are now visible from Glen Davis Road and from Pearson's Lookout, in contravention of an agreement to screen them with trees. The heaps should be covered to control acid run-off that will affect local waterways.

In these very dry times water is a big issue and the colliery waste water should not be allowed to pollute the local waterways which run into the Gardens of Stone National Park, and into Capertee Valley.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely, Peter B Docker.  
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