

"Glengarry"

205 Swains Road

CARROLL NSW 2340

29th April 2013

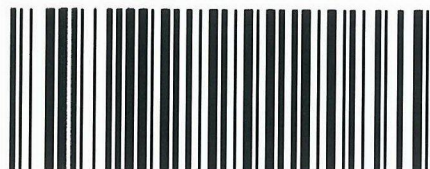
Director, Mining & Industry Projects

Major Projects Assessment

GPO Box 39

SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir,



PCU044059

Department of Planning
Received
3 MAY 2013
Scanning Room

Re - Submission to EIS Proposed Watermark Coal Project – No SSD 4975.

Our submission to this proposed project is as follows –

This project is a tremendous opportunity for our community in regards to employment and job opportunities for local people – young as well as not so young. We are looking forward to the commencement of this project in our area which is in the Gunnedah Shire Council land area.

However obviously there are many issues which need to be addressed as part of the assessment in the overall consideration by the Department.

We are aware of the stringent guidelines for assessment of major projects such as this which obviously encompass –

Economic assessment – impacts on employment and housing – it is noted that the proponent aims for a large % of local workforce which is to be applauded – however there are many issues along these lines which must be addressed.

Transport issues – and in particular road infrastructure – impact on roads, impact of possible flooding, coal train numbers etc. Standard of road upgrades are important in this assessment.

Employment – very important for our area – would be invaluable to see opportunities for trainees, apprentices, as well as other workers being addressed in a way that ensures long term employment.

Training opportunities are vital for the future of our young people.

Impacts on neighbours in the area – obviously stringent processes already in place in other mines would be required in this area also – to allay neighbour's concerns – such as dust, noise, visual impacts.

Water – both groundwater and surface – need for this area to be addressed also as water is an important part of our community's opportunities – both in farming and mining as well as socially.

We note that contrary to some opposing group's comments that farming apparently uses approximately 54% of available water and mining uses 4% -

We also understand that there is an opportunity for a Voluntary Planning Agreement wherein the proponent agrees to provide funds to offset some of the impacts on our community ensuring that financial assistance is provided to the local Council. This Agreement should be in place before the proponent is given the go ahead for this development.

We are strongly in support of this development provided that all the relevant issues are addressed as part of the assessment – understanding that there are already rigorous processes in place for the assessment of such large developments such as this.

We are concerned that there is a vast majority of people living within our Shire who gain significant benefit from the employment opportunities which come from such large developments such as this but whose voices are not heard above the noisy minority who are not prepared to listen to the facts on issues such as the strong and balanced assessment which is part of this process.

We trust that there is a good and balanced outcome from this process and that this development gets the 'go-ahead' – otherwise where is the power going to come from when those who are opposed to many alternative sources of power such as wind farms, nuclear, coal seam gas etc. constantly gain media attention and that is the only information which gains the public's attention?

We thank the Department for the opportunity to make a submission to this EIS and apologise for the tardiness due to the death of a family member.

Yours faithfully,



Geoffrey Lloyd and Roslyn Gae Swain



Deputy Mayor
Gunnedah Shire Council
J.P. 174420.