

My name is Robert Cluff, I am a local businessman from Black Gold Motel in Wallerawang and a member of the Wallerawang/Lidsdale Progress Association.

Over the years the business has grown from one employee to 25.

The Wallerawang Power Station closed, then the Angus Place Colliery, both a major hit like never before in our community.

As a small country town which has a lot of small businesses operated by local families & employing local people that are suffering due to these closures.

I believe there should be a balance in tourism & industry to make our local area expand and grow. We have to consider that tourists generally travel on the weekend. This means that the predicted growth in tourism will not replace the local coal mine and power station workers we all relied on during the week.

In addition to this, Tourism does not help the 40 other businesses in Wallerawang that employ the many flow on employees at other business that are not involved in Tourism e.g. the plant hire, engineering businesses, mechanics and even our local schools and pre-schools. This is just Wallerawang alone - look further afield the whole of the Lithgow & Portland areas need more than

the tourism industry to survive. I would like to plead with those that feel this is the answer to our area to be realistic and take off the rose coloured glasses; **we need industry in our area to survive.**

Regulations of today in all forms have come a long way from the way we built buildings, workplace rules, and mostly the way we mine.

I have only the utmost support for the increase of production at the Springvale mine, this will help our local community grow and give employment for young families. Once again our community need this modification proposal to go ahead, and we urge the planning commission to consider all the positives that come from more employment.

In closing Lithgow, Wallerawang & Portland areas need this modification to be approved for our survival as a community.

I am sure that we would all agree that the expectations of a modern organisation today, are that they will operate in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.

We would expect nothing less of Centennial Coal for example.

It is socially unacceptable that our politicians, our government, our agencies and this very process have let this town, this state and this country down. All involved in this process have a social responsibility to ensure this process is managed professionally, on time with minimal impact to the community, the company and again our country.

The NSW and Australian Government along with the various agencies that regulate should be encouraging business in NSW and helping them to comply. Their job should not be to just throw road blocks, red tape and more steps in a process.