

18<sup>TH</sup> September 2013

Attention Mr Colin Phillips

NSW Planning & Infrastructure

Major Project Assessments

Mining & Industry Projects.

Dear Sir

Re: Submission for Western Coal Services – SSD12-5579

I object and oppose this project as with every other project that has been passed by the State Government or Lithgow City Council in the Blackmans Flat area. Would you or could you honestly say that you would live here? And yet you expect people to accept this as quality long term planning and a current and future quality of life.

This area as you should by now know is a rural setting bordering on the Ben Bullen State Forest which has been acknowledge by the Premiers department to be listed for reservation. Equally documented is the acknowledgement of preserving sensitive lands and waterways by Lithgow City Council in their current draft LEP. At the same time Lithgow City Council have determined that given the state significant and local approvals, this rural setting which is currently zoned Rural 1A is now proposed to be zoned as Employment Lands -Heavy Industry. Whilst no one denies the need for financial economic viability, Blackmans Flat residents have paid the price time and time again for this State for many years through no choice by the loss of their quality of lifestyle, their health, their environment, their property values, and the deterioration of their homes due to blasting which has never been acknowledged by any of these companies in their so-called 'rigorous independent assessment processes'. A Departmental review is long overdue and needs to be determined by the Department and not by the contracted consultants by those companies.

Again I ask that the NSW government ensure that these companies as well as Lithgow City Council, who were well aware of residents living in the area when they determined past developments to have an inclusive approach not only for industry but for all of the local constituents.

Lithgow City Council have completed their draft Local Environment Plan which if the department took the time to read will show that there is no outcome or solution for the people who live in the immediate area of Blackmans Flat in fact they as well have given no out policy for those remaining residents. They have dictated that industry is important and people are not.

Whilst again I acknowledge the importance of industry there has been no inclusion for the people who live here. Those families were here before most of the proposals were approved or a very smaller scale and each and every company were consciously aware of those residents with no respect or care about the damage they imposed upon us. There is no balance here or inclusiveness and those companies have profited whilst each individual has lost the only real asset they have and worked all their life to attain – only to be given the death sentence by the Department and Council. If those companies did have any real respect for their community members they will do the most honourable and assist with relocating at no cost to the resident. I would see the only solution is for the government to step up and start proactive legislation that enforces any company who wishes to operate industry to be responsible for relocation at no cost to the resident.

I would like to thank the Department for strongly urging Centennial Pty Ltd to undertake genuine consultation, for requiring the Company to produce a Social Impact Statement, and for requiring them to address the current and future cumulative impacts on this community. The company now appears to be proceeding with relocating the **immediate residents** impacted upon by this individual Project, but I believe that **the Department must ensure that all of the Companies operating in this area are made equally responsible for contributing to the relocation of any affected resident within a 3 kilometre radius who wish to be relocated at no cost to them.**

However I recently visited Centennials community consultation day and met with their representatives and enquired why we have not received any further correspondence regarding relocation? I was advised they will not consider our relocation as we are not in the immediate area, but some 800 - 1000 metres from this particular site, approximately 600 - 800 metres from Pine Dale Site, approximately 1.2 kilometres from the existing eastern boundary for the ash repository and 1.4 kilometres from the proposed Nuebecks Creek Open Cut Mine. I am deeply disappointed and the fear of retribution rings loud-and-clear due to the fact that I have been outspoken in my objection to these projects trying to protect the other residents of Blackmans Flat and the only real asset I have – my home.

As the department is well aware, the current cumulative impacts and Centennials Social Impact consultant reports that exceedences will occur due to quadrupling the coal handling from 2 to up to 9 million tonnes per year including an unknown quantity on site of coal fines, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, increased trucks movements along the Angus Place to Mt Piper private Haul Road, and an overpass over the highway linking the private haul road to the project area. Add the current application for Nuebecks Creek Open Cut Mine which undoubtedly will be approved, Pine Dale Stage 2 to demolish 200 hectares of the Ben Bullen State Forest with unknown coal stock piles with a exploration licence of another 300 hectares of open-cut , the approval of Mt Pipers Ash Repository closer to our home which is currently holding over 12-14 million tonnes of fly ash, unknown quality of coal stock pile on site we will certainly will have increased our loss of quality of life, our home and natural environment, increased health issues, loss of property value through no fault of our own due to these current and future proposal.

Attached is a snap shot of Blackmans Flat taken in 2006, unfortunately we do not have the opportunity to have access to the real time picture of impacts on the area but believe you would have that opportunity to view. As you can see given all of those industries and the position of our home and the dominating winds, the contours of the forest gives indication of huge concerns of air quality. I am beyond reading and believing data from any of those companies as questioned this current system given past historic evidence by volunteers that has been proven to show all the

documentation provided by a company given to the department failed on numerous occasions with breaches of both state and federal acts.

I recommend that the NSW Government proceed with legislating to protect not only industry but people with a 3 kilometre radius barrier for industry from any resident.

I recommend that the NSW Government proceed with legislating in the field government staff to review any industrial development application that is state significant to ensure that the application does reflect accuracy.

I recommend that the NSW Government proceed with legislating in the field government staff to commence an ongoing monitoring program for recording native vegetation.

I recommend that the NSW Government proceed with legislating that all industries will comply with having a neutral and beneficial result with zero discharge pollution policy for waterways, land and air.

Yours truly

