

Submission objecting to the Angus Place Mine Extension (SSD 5602 - Amendment Exhibition)

I have written many submission over the last 15 years after painstakingly reading through hundreds of pages of documentation and picking out relevant issues which I always hoped would be examined by the Dept of Planning when making their decisions. I now know that was a fruitless exercise.

This submission is very short and you may think partly irrelevant, but I want to take this opportunity to quickly recount the 20 year destruction of the Ecologically Endangered Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamps.

For about 20 years Centennial Coal has lied and deceived and denied what was an exponentially mounting body of scientific evidence proving that undermining or mining in the vicinity of these precious swamps was draining the water from and killing them.

They carried out a relentless attack on Environmental Groups who dared to gather scientific evidence and present the facts to the Government. Some of these people who live in the Lithgow area have been, and still are verbally abused and ostracized by parts of the community who believed the propaganda and lies touted by Executives of Centennial Coal who categorically denied that the swamps were being damaged.

Extract from <http://mininglink.com.au/site/angus-place> in relation to the previous Extension approved to 2024
*"Environmental group Colong Foundation opposed the upgrading and extension plans arguing the company was simply trying to increase production at the mine. The Colong group were claiming any increase of the mine boundary would negatively impact on swamps on the Newnes Plateau. **The mine management argued that any damage to the swamps in question was not the result of mining but was due to changing climatic conditions**"*

Quote from 2015, Katie Brassil - Executive General Manager Approvals, Sustainability and Corporate Communications
*"If there is evidence that underground mining has caused irreversible impacts to swamp communities **(bearing in mind there is currently no evidence to support a case that this has occurred)**, Centennial will implement the Trigger Action Response Plan developed under the documents mentioned above," she said.*

In the last year or so Centennials strategy has totally changed and in the face if undeniable scientific evidence they now admit that they have destroyed these swamps. In the latest (2019) Springvale Annual Report they admit that their newest longwalls 425 and 426 have drained another 2 swamps, Pine and Paddys Creek. So much for the Independent Monitoring Panel's commitment to stopping mining if there was further evidence of damage occurring. They watched Carne West, Gang Gang West and Gang Gang Swamps destroyed and let 425 and 426 go ahead. IMP members and the Dept of Planning should be ashamed. Marrangaroo Swamp will be the next to go in the Springvale area.

Extract from the 2019 Springvale Annual Report-
"Water levels in Pine Swamp piezometers dropped suddenly and some have dropped below the loggers while LW425 passed during the review period. Paddys Creek Swamp, PC2, located on a surface lineament that is within 100 m of LW425 experienced large declines in water levels, whereas PC1 remained in a stable condition. Both Pine Swamp and Paddys Creek Swamp are under current investigation."

Centennial have been so enabled by the politicians, Executives and decision makers in the NSW Department of Planning that they now know they can do whatever they like and it will get the rubber stamp of approval. A couple of million dollars in compensation is nothing to this Company, who I am reliably informed, can extract up to one million dollars of coal a day from some workings (depending on the current price).

As for the Federal Government and the EPBC Act, that may as well not exist. It is totally useless to protect our precious environment.

RIP

Lambs Ck, Kangaroo Ck, Junction, East Wolgan, Sunnyside East, Carne West, Gang Gang West, Gang Gang, Pine, Paddys Ck

As for Centennials token gesture in the report purporting to support a State Conservation Area in the future I make the following points –

- How can a privately owned mining company dictate future land management decisions?
- Shame on the Government organisations enabling them to think they have so much power.
- Of course it is easy to agree to an SCA when you have finished your destructive mining practices and no longer have a vested interest.
- **Whether or not there is a future State Conservation Area is totally irrelevant to this Extension application and should have no bearing on the approval process.**

I have no doubt that even though the DA reports admit that all the swamps in the area will be destroyed this extension will be approved as have all the others. I would like to think that one day someone in the Dept of Planning will hold Centennial Coal to account for all the environmental and social damage they have relentlessly carried out in and around Lithgow.

I know that many of my former colleagues have read through all the relevant documents and taken many, many hours to point out all the valid scientific reasons that this extension should not go ahead. Please listen to them.

Thank you

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