

Mining Projects
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124
Dear Sir/Madam,

State Significant Project – Angus Place Mine Extension (SSD 5602 - Amendment Exhibition)

The Bathurst Community Climate Action Network (BCCAN) is a network of organisations and individuals working together to promote action on the challenge of climate change and sustainable equitable development. BCCAN has approximately 65 members. The group was registered as an Incorporated Association with the Department of Fair Trading in 2007. Since then, it has been an active participant in public discussions about environmental policy in the Central West of NSW.

We are affiliated to peak organisations the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) of NSW and to the national Climate Action Network Australia (CANA). We are also a member of the regional Central West Environment Council (CWEC).

BCCAN requests that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) recommend refusal of consent, as Centennial Coal has not modified the Angus Place mine extension proposal to adequately protect nationally endangered swamps and has sought to solidify its continuation to 2053, preventing adequate future responses to environmental concerns and necessary adaption of the energy sector to address the growing climate emergency. As a result:

BCCAN wishes to highlight that the Newnes Plateau, an area that this mine extension is highly likely to impact on, is home to a diversity of unique swamps and landforms which have been developing for 12,000 to 14,000 years. These *Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone* are an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* with only 3000 hectares of this irreplaceable habitat remaining. Any impacts would put considerable pressure on threatened species such as the Giant dragonfly, Blue Mountains water skink and Deane's Boronia.

Irreversible damage to the EEC will mean that this proposal will impact Lithgow and the greater region by directly diminishing tourism opportunities integral to the local economy and what could be a thriving and long-lasting industry, providing jobs and local pride, given the

opportunity. Tourism would be the logical industry into which to transition mine workers as coal-mining inevitably ceases in the future, so this mine extension proposal would destroy the future career prospects of miners.

Primary producers within the surrounding areas will also directly suffer from the contribution the proposal will make to the warming of the planet as a direct result of increased carbon emissions, as well as the decreased quality of water due to mine derived contaminants.

The Paris Agreement saw Australia commit to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 26-28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030. This is incongruous with the expected 474,516 tonnes of GHG created by the proposed expansion project. Such targets, designed to preserve natural systems and life itself cannot realistically be reached if the coal industry maintains its current trajectory.

Centennial Coal has in the past been a lifeline for workers in the Lithgow region and beyond, supporting families and the broader community. Now, however, we realise that employment and income from coal mining has come at the cost of our atmosphere and the long-term health of the planet. The very communities Centennial Coal has supported thus far will not be immune to these devastating effects and are at risk if a 33-year life extension of this mine is approved, meaning that everything Centennial Coal has positively created within and for the Lithgow community will be for nothing.

Yours Sincerely,

Jack Fry
President

Sources

<https://www.colongwilderness.org.au/media-releases/2020/03/angus-place-mine-extension-%E2%80%93-heralds-damaging-mining-spectacular-gardens>

<https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/central-tablelands/key-projects/swamped-by-threats>

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=SSD-5602%2120200301T052004.193%20GMT>

<http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/4c456084-b8d1-4800-8e91-f98236613b1c/files/temperate-highland-peat-swamps.pdf>