

PAC – Centennial Coal Springvale Mine May 2017

My name is Graeme Osborne I am a local family man and have resided in Lithgow since birth, I have also married a local girl and we have raised our family in the area.

I have been involved in the local mining industry for just on 36 years, I started in March 1981 when I was able to get a start at Angus Place Colliery which I worked for 24years.

Since 2003 I was offered an opportunity to fill a vacancy in the role of the UMW District Vice President and then since the 2004 CFMEU elections I have successful held this position during the last 3 CFMEU National Elections. As part of my role I am nominated by the CFMEU Mining and Energy peak body to the position of Employee Trustee Director on the industry Superannuation Fund Mine Super a position that I have held since 2005.

I am humbled to again stand before the PAC Commissioners to represent and speak supporting the Union, its members, Centennial Coal, the Springvale Colliery, its workforce, ^{Mt Piper PS} contracting employees and the wider Lithgow community. I wish to reinforce that mining is an integral foundation of this region and has been an important industry for close to 150 years, the mining community and the Springvale Mine is an integral part to the local community and its importance to assisting in supporting the State's energy needs.

Springvale is an underground longwall mine that has been operating now for over two decades, employing in excess of 300 local people. This mine is the only supplier of coal to the Mt Piper Power station, it is the only reliable supplier of coal which in turns enables the power station to continually operate and supply approximately the state of NSW with 15% of the electricity.

The Springvale mine currently secures the employment of over 340 full time employees and close to 40 contractors, but also supplies ancillary work to couriers, engineering and fabrication workshops, machinery repairers, conveyor belt companies, the list is endless.

The workforce from the Springvale Mine provides an important positive contribution to the local Lithgow community through employee's remuneration and continued support of local business, organisations and charities through donations.

Of the full time employees that are employed at the mine 77% reside in the local Lithgow area.

The CFMEU South Western District supports the joint proposal by Centennial Coal and Energy Australia to build a Water Treatment facility. And also support the proposed changes to Mod 1 and Mod 2 submitted by Centennial Coal that are materially related to the above project and are submitted as a complete package for once for the better good and common sense by all involved.

The Water Treatment Plant project has 2 key components, a 15 kilometre water transfer pipeline and a desalination plant.

I note in the department's own Assessment Report it states on page 23 and I quote the following "the project offers significant benefits for the local and wider communities, and would facilitate the continued significant contribution of the power station to the state's energy generation mix, consistent with the NSW Government's vision for a secure reliable and affordable energy supply into the future. In addition, the project would have flow-on benefits to the local community through job creation and capital investment. Given the benefits can

be achieved without causing any significant adverse impacts the project is considered to be approvable.”

Centennial Coal are in addition seeking as part of the WTP to seek a Modification (WCS MOD 1), this relates to the Western Coal Services. This site has a current consent previously approved by the PAC back in April 2014, but Springvale Coal is now seeking to modify to allow this site to receive and emplace residual waste material produced by the proposed WTP.

As part of the SWTP the company also seeks a modification (SV Mod2) to its current October 2015 planning consent. That consent committed Springvale to significantly improve the quality of water discharged from the mine.

The proposed SWTP will exceed the quality required by that 2015 consent, in fact the proposal ensures that no water need to be discharged into the Wangcol Creek which elevates the major concerns of contaminated water supposedly flowing and effecting the precise people of Sydney. .

The Modification represents a superior water quality outcome than the previous 2015 consent, improves job security, provide future employment opportunities, boost the local economy and continues to provide economic sustainability to the state NSW.

The reality is coal underpins our nation’s energy needs and coal will continue to play an important role in ensuring as a nation we have affordable and secure energy.

This mine and all its employees is not only important to our local community it plays an import role in ensuring we continue to have affordable and secure energy in NSW.

I remind the members of the PAC this mine is the only reliable supplier of coal to Mt Piper Power Station.

To me the SWTP and the additional 2 modifications proposed by Centennial Coal are a massive show of respect by the company on its vision to assist in protecting the environment.

I now would like to take the opportunity to air some negative comments and make some important observations on this current process which the current Minister and the NSW Government seems oblivious as to the effect and impact on workers their families and the surrounding communities with this approval process.

This process of a public meeting occurs after the department receive more than 25 letters objecting to a submission, Once that occurs the PAC has the responsibility then to arrange such a meeting. This step in the process then allows the anti-mining lobbyists the ability to place pressure on a workforce and a community that the majority of those antagonist have no clear connection with or care about the implication on the workforce, their families or the community.

I have taken the time to browse the PAC website on this proposal and some 440 written submissions objecting to the proposal. I am amazed at the number of people who have submitted exactly the same letter from all over the country.

The objection letters from individuals which are a result of association and an email campaign arranged by **Special** Interest Groups as the content is replicated in close to 100% of these letters.

I put forward a Question

Are those individual letters objecting only to the Springvale Water Treatment Project as a single proposal? If so then

LIKE TO READ A LITTLE FROM A STANDARD LETTER

From searching the PAC website the WCS Mod 1 only had 3 Groups and 1 individual objecting, Question so why does this application even need to be raised or put on the agenda as part of this process.

A huge percentage of these detractors don't even reside in the local area, contribute nothing to our community, but have the audacity to object to the survival of our local community.

I am again asking why the government continues to support and use this process of written submissions when you look at the amount of duplication within those objecting. ~~These submissions come at no additional impact to the environment representing a 'win-win' scenario.~~

Those objecting are again the same Special Interest Groups and Individuals that have opposed every PAC Hearing or Meeting that has been held in this community since the inception of this process by the state government.

This project I thought would have been seen a positive by the special people that are the detractors and the interested groups.

This project may be a little forward thinking for the objectors when truth be known they are just really totally opposed to coal and coal fired power under the guise of being defenders of the environment.

The benefits of this project are a fit for purpose for the future and protect the local environment and will be achieved with no risk on the environment.

This approval is in the best interests, socially, economically and more importantly mentally not only for both the operations involved and their entire workforce and their families but also for the people of the community, the environment and is a state significant matter due to the mine being the only supplier for coal to the local power station.

Another positive impact from the approval will be the additional direct and then the indirect employment opportunities to construct the plant, and the security of employment of the existing employees at the mine and MPPS. This will see the flow on effect of those direct and indirect individuals wages being a benefit to the community and in turn the state.

I would now like to remind the PAC that this community and more importantly the workforce at the mine has endured a protracted assessment process (over some 3 years) to finally secure a planning consent from Government that allows Springvale to continue operating for a further 13 years.

During the last 3 years this workforce has continually been under threat as a result of the process for approvals. You would no doubt remember or be aware of the 2015 process which due to the protracted process the company was left no other option than to stand down the majority of the Springvale workforce. This stand down lasted 8 weeks and was hugely unfair and disruptive to the workforce and significantly impacted their families and the local community.

I again believe this local community has shown their support and concern today and in the past and Commissioners, we again ask that you support the Springvale Extension Application as you have done in the past. This needs to be supported and I would like to stress that this local regional community of Lithgow within the state of NSW can't sustain any further job losses.

Significant Social, Economic and Mental Issues for the local community

- Loss of jobs, wages
- Indirect Flow of employment loss of 4:1 = 2000 jobs
- Coal supply for the Mt Piper Power Station
- Possible closure or mothballing of Angus Place, Springvale and the Mount Piper Power Station.

I cant finish without making the following personal comments, If there is one message or point that I would really like the Commissioner to take out from my presentation then it is this.

That this part of the approval process has passed its use by date and the Planning and Environment Minister needs to have a deep review as to what he achieves out of this process. I see two sides over the last 5 years under this process,

- the continued role of detractors and objectors to the industry continually be granted an early timeslot to present and then show no respect to the process and those directly involved or the community, they hurriedly pack up and leave, but first are happy to entertain the media with an interview. POINT TO THOSE PRESENT
- And sadly the opposite side which are those that are directly involved or from community organisation who from my way of stating the obvious continually are placed in a position due to this non blame process of having to present and beg for support to gain the approvals which secures their jobs and increases the security for their families and the community.

In closing I would like to go back to one of my opening comment and reinforce as I stated earlier that I am humbled to have been given the opportunity once again stand before the PAC Commissioners to represent and speak

supporting the Union, its members, Centennial Coal, the Springvale Colliery, its workforce, contracting employees and the wider the Lithgow community. And make no apology for any comments or remarks as they are my views and I don't shy away from anything that I have said, today

Finally, the CFMEU again reinforces that we support the SWTP and WCS Modification 1 and SMEP Modification 2 to the Springvale consent and ask the PAC Commissioner to recognise the importance of and huge benefits of this project to the mine and Mt Piper Power Station as well and the employees at those operations and all the ancillary workers as well, and then the Social, Economic and Mental benefits to the employees, their families and our community and the State of NSW and reinforce that you recommend and support the approval of the applications by Centennial Coal.

Thank You

Graeme Osborne.