

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I will be brief as I think all should be.

Having been unfairly retrenched through age discrimination from the mining industry persons may think why is he defending the mining industry, well it is simple two wrongs don't make a right.

The treatment this area has received over the last 20 years has torn the opportunity for us to grow our families in some sort of stability and remain together in the community.

All political sides of the fence have treated this community with contempt. All our major employment infrastructure has been pulled from us and the opportunities for our youth continue to dry up. The majority have to face moving away or go on the benefit line to exist and we know that only leads one way, take away a persons dignity and you have broken that human being. The guts of any community is providing a future for our kids, giving them a reason to strive to reach their goals, let them build their future with confidence, grow their own family, educate their kids here and absorb the wonderful community that we live in. Do people realise the downward trend of young families compared to older couples in this district. I know first hand what these closures of our industrial baseload is doing to our families.

Just ponder through what we have lost.

The railways, have a look at the number of lines closed, have a look at the trucks on the roads. I often ponder the future of trains past Mt Victoria if we lose any more from this district.

TAFE – it was a thriving enterprise with large numbers of apprentices supplied by our industrial heritage until we gave subsidies for private companies to take their stability from them. The number of

apprenticeships now is appalling, with our youth now travelling to Bathurst and Orange to study their trade if they are fortunate enough to secure one of the limited positions now available.

Baal Bone colliery.

Powercoal – remember our cheap electricity that businesses could afford. Remember the lies that privatisation would drive prices down from both sides of the political spectrum.

Wallerawang Power station – younger than Liddell – Liddell still operating, WHY I ask is it because it is not somewhere near the Blue mountains and the govt does not need to answer to a handful of objectors with very big mouths that do not handle the truth very well, lies are broadcast to the general public. I back this statement with the publicity of pollution from Mount Piper Power Station that is actually the cooling towers emitting water vapour.

Closure of Wallerawang Power Station was the catalyst for the 300 plus permanent positions at Angus Place Colliery to go by the wayside.

Tourism – the Zig Zag railway – why haven't hurdles been lowered to get it back on track or is it that dreaded pollution. Run steam loco,s anywhere in tourist areas elsewhere but alas we are in the dreaded blue mountains where we constantly fight the minority.

As the CEO of a local business I have seen the huge downturn in the last five years as we lost our bass workforces of coal and power. I have been doing this job voluntary along with several other volunteers to run our business for the community. We employ 12 people along with service contractors. All profits go to the community to support sporting teams and persons in need. From making in the vicinity of \$110,000 profit 5 years ago to 3 consecutive

years of \$30,000 losses just shows the torment this community is facing, if losses continue we either go all voluntary or we close. When Springvale Colliery was on forced shutdown last year we experienced our worst trading in 20 years.

WHY WHY WHY is it that when something good for this area is mooted the same faces come out to stop it. Why has Springvale colliery been singled out by these same people. Because they wont be happy until there is no industry. We need coal fired power stations for this country to survive, we need Springvale Colliery we need other industry to come to our area as we can supply consistent and cheap power compared to the pie in the sky renewable energy.

In conclusion I must press to you people on the PAC that this district is hurting, please support Centennial coal and energy Australia on this Water Treatment strategy going ahead.

We know we live in a beautiful area and we need to support companies and projects that are responsible. People and council have supported the removal of coal fired home heating which has been a win win.

Come on let us develop not recede into a place that does not support our heritage and community friendly past.

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in support of this project.