

Notes for Keith Howell on speech at the public meeting at the Lithgow Workers Club in Lithgow with the Planning Assessment Commission on Wednesday 29/11/17.

As you will see I am supporting the project based on the social and economic benefits to the Lithgow area.

I am reading also some information that is within the Lithgow City Council “Economic development Strategy”

1. I would like to speak on behalf of a Bre Transport who runs a small contracting company that now only employs approx 3 people and we would like to show our support for the project to proceed as set down by the department of planning and further recommendations that may be put on the project as decided by the Planning Assessment Commission.
2. Unemployment in this district is currently the highest within the western region and has been rising for a number of years, and your decisions today and in the past affect families directly and indirectly.
3. We used to employ 30 people in 2012 and are now down to 3.
4. Unemployment and the constant threat of losing your job are paramount with the people of Lithgow.
5. Lithgow has been in the news recently and all for the wrong reason.
6. The reinvigoration of mining locally will have a positive impact on the local community, following a number of years with negative news regarding the mining industry.
7. This as you can see has had an affect not only on families but businesses throughout the district.
8. Local businesses have seen their revenue drop since the closure of many businesses within the district to the extent that some businesses now do not exist
9. If I may I would like to read from Lithgow City Council “Economic Development Strategy” their vision and a couple of concerns and strategies outlined in a plan for the Lithgow City Council.
10. Currently 15% of people now work outside of the Lithgow area.
11. Lithgow also has a range of competitive disadvantages such as:
 - A lack of suitable land available for industrial and commercial purposes exacerbated by the geography of the Local Government Area.
 - Limited employment opportunities for resident workforce exacerbating the issue more residents working outside the Lithgow area.

This also means however, that if the LGA experiences job losses particularly in specialized industries or industry fluctuations, they will lose these skills forever.

In addition to this, if the workforce has been accustomed to working within close proximity to their residence, they may be less inclined to seek employment outside the area and commuting.

They may in fact feel pressured into leaving the region entirely to seek employment within the industry/sectors in which they specialise in.

As indicated I am in support of the project gaining approval for the betterment of the Lithgow region

Keith Howell