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Thank You Commissioners

My name is Stephen Lesslie and I am the Mayor of Lithgow

Lithgow City Council supports Castlereagh Coal's request to seek an extension to the life of the mine by 8 years.

Lithgow City Council has raised concerns in our submission in relation to:

- Blasting - we would ask that any road closures occur outside school bus hours
- Noise - the implementation of mitigation measures to affected receivers
- Traffic - a management program for covering and washing of coal trucks be implemented
- Visual - that visual impacts be minimised through progressive rehabilitation

We ask that the Planning Assessment Commission ensure that the recommendations in the Department of Planning and Environments Assessment report relating to these matters are included in any approval of the project

The proposal will result in a number of tangible economic benefits including:

- Employment of up to 35 full time employees - Lithgow Local Government Area currently has the highest unemployment rate in our region.
- The Voluntary Planning Agreement has been finalised and this will provide a contribution of 5 cents per tonne each financial year for community projects and infrastructure in Cullen Bullen and surrounds. Cullen Bullen is a pretty little village but currently under a great deal of economic stress.

We note that the cost benefit analysis prepared by Cadence Economics calculates that the project would have a net benefit of around \$79.9 million.

Lithgow City Council has also been concerned that Mt Piper Power Station is currently limited to a single supplier of coal, Springvale Mine. This is unwise and given that Mt Piper is a major source of base load electricity for NSW a second source of coal is a sensible precaution in ensuring that NSW's and ultimately Eastern Australia's power supply can be maintained in adverse situations.

In summary Lithgow City Council concurs with the conclusions of the Department of Planning and Environments Assessment report and we recommend that the proposal should be approved.