

Wendy Day

Dear Commissioners

I have lived in the City of Lithgow for 21 years: around 8 years in Portland and 13 years at Cullen Bullen, in 2 different rental properties owned by Coalpac and now Manildra.

Coalpac were very kind and supportive landlords. I was devastated when Coalpac closed and was in limbo for 2 years wondering if I had to move. With the closure went the support of the great young guys and girls-engineers, plumbers, electricians, admin etc who helped maintain the property and who were also friends. They were always cheerful and helpful. So I know what it is like to love living in Cullen but to struggle to survive sometimes, waiting for the mine to reopen. It was great to see them all gathering at the pub after work on Friday with wives and girlfriends and kids out in the sun relaxing together after a long hard week's work. These people brought life to the Cullen Bullen community. Now the pub is closed, we can't get our parcels any time from the publican and chat about what's happening in town and there is nowhere for the locals to hang out. No work, no community. (I am not going to say all this at the PAC but wanted you to know where I stand)

When Manildra finally took over, it was very positive and encouraging, especially for me because at last I have a lease and don't have to wonder every day when I will have to move and am really looking forward to meeting the new employees. I also have been out of work for a long time and need a job. I worked at Invincible for a year at start-up.

Right from the beginning they have been kind, supportive and helpful to the whole community and I have been very impressed with the quality of their work and research under the banner of Castlereagh Coal, and Graham Goodwin is always helpful. But as with my farm, Cullen Bullen has been dying a little bit each week, each month, each year, as time went by waiting. It is time for renewal. So, having read the 37 page assessment report, and some of the objections,

- I was very impressed by Manildra's perseverance and investment in doing everything that they were asked to change and persevering till good results were achieved. I fully support them and am really looking forward to the Project getting your approval. I have always believed in good management and best practice and they have proved that they are very capable of these good qualities and good business management.
- Prime 7's recent news feature on the Manildra Group and how much success, productivity and good business they have brought to the community. A great Australian family business. I want that for Cullen Bullen. Employ 1600 workers. Mine will keep them employed also.
- A generous donation to the Portland Easter Festival. I'm one of the 3 original founders and have been on the committee for 16 years. We really need their support. While in maintenance mode there was no money for local support and donations so I saw in that first stage how helpful they are.
- They showed then they want to be part of the community, help it thrive and give hope. Very positive.
- It's been a hard winter for struggling families with beautiful kids who love to come to Gindaay, Portland Youth centre, after school. 3 left the area in the last few weeks to look for work

- Gardens of Stone, rocks, Eucalyptus forest etc V Garden of Stones- mental health, A&OD, DV much more awareness, need employment
- Mine workers very hard workers- for mortgage or rent, families, school, cars etc. Get up in the dark and freezing cold in winter (Airly)and very hot in summer.
- I know the land, I know the bush. Grew up in the bush, lived in Blue Mts bush, Mt Irvine, Meadow Flat. Soil, rain. Hawkesbury Sandstone V Central Tablelands. The “environmental supposed experts” don’t live here and I don’t agree with some things in the report. Broad-headed snake
- Speaking to young lady business owner in Lithgow. Very concerned: her husband and whole family work in the mines, “Of course we all care about the environment, but these greenies don’t even live here”.

Please approve the Project NOW. Cullen Bullen wants it, we need it and are looking forward to revival and productivity and community.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Wendy Day