

**From:** MARY THIRLWALL [marythirlwall@icloud.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 August 2013 1:19:17 PM  
**To:** Lithgow City Council  
**Subject:** Ref: LEP2013 Environment and Recent Mining Legislation Amendments

Dear General Manager

Re: Proposed amendments to State Environmental Planning Policy  
(Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) Amendment  
(Resource Significance) 2013.

We own a rural property in the Capertee valley where we have cattle and olives and 4 cottages which are rented out for tourism. The valley is renowned for being the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon. It has been listed for classification under the World Heritage banner. It is renowned as a significant bird watching area, an area of immense biodiversity, including flora, fauna and geological formations, not found anywhere else. It is an area growing in notoriety for all the above reasons. Already there is 1 mine in the valley - Centennials @ Airlie Mt. This mine has been passed by the Federal and State Govts. For extension. Neither the EIS or a Water Impact Assessment have been submitted. Hopefully not more of Mt. Penny's legislation or lack thereof !

These proposed amendments prioritise mining interests over the interests of the environment and the community. The amendments make it clear that the 'significance of the resource' – using the economic benefit of the resource as a measure of that significance - is to be the principle consideration when assessing development applications for mining projects., The motivation and objectives behind the amendments are not clear. The arrogant approach that the government has taken with these proposed amendments makes a mockery of the hard working landowners, environmentalists, communities and general public who care deeply about the future of their landscapes and natural resources. The notion of the 'significance' and economic benefits of developing a resource being the primary consideration when assessing approval for mining development is frightening., Mining development should be subject to truly balanced considerations and triple bottom line assessments. I care about the long term future of our country and our state and I care about the potential for these developments to have an impact on air and water quality and clean green agricultural farm land. These considerations must be considered appropriately when assessing development., I also care about the social impact that mining development can have on a community. These amendments not only increase my own sense of disempowerment, but also the sense of disempowerment felt in my community.

I strongly urge an objective approach when assisting-in decision making in relation to Mining when it affects rural communities, threatens our water supply(in this already fragile environment) and growing health concerns, never mind the legacy we will ultimately be leaving for future generations. We need a much greater vision and objective approach. If in doubt about not only my opinion, but a growing number of decent people who live within Lithgow Council boundary, please come and visit the Capertee Valley, in particular Airlie and Genowlan Mts. You could not help but be

gob smacked about the decision to allow Mining to go ahead under these mountains, destined to be classified under the World Heritage banner. As a consequence, threatening the water supply to the rest of the Capertee Valley, never mind the affects on biodiversity and the local environment.

I am not against Mining per se, I have worked as a professional in the Mining industry all my professional life. My objection is the fact that we are putting Mining above everything else, at the expense of so many other areas. We have lost the Balance !

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to this important submission.

Yours sincerely

John and Mary Thirlwall

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