



870 Ophir Rd
Summer Hill Creek
NSW 2800

www.cwecouncil.com

EPBC Unit
Gateway referrals
epbc.referrals@awe.gov.au

Monday 25 July 2022

Submission

Angus Place West Referral No: 2022/09270

Introduction

Central West Environment Council (CWEC) is an umbrella organization representing conservation groups and individuals in central west NSW working to protect the local environment for future generations.

CWEC is concerned about the inadequacy of the information provided for consideration under a controlled action, in the assessment of the proposed Angus Place West coalmine project in the Lithgow region, central west NSW.

This project will cause irreparable damage to the local environment and have an impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) that cannot be offset. The proposed extension of the Angus Place mine should not be approved.

1. Water Trigger

This proposed large mine extension must be considered under the water trigger provisions of the EPBC Act. It will have significant impact on the Cox's River in Sydney's drinking water catchment.

The proposal to mine within 60 m of the Cox's River, along a major Geological Fault Line and near other Type 1 Lineaments, needs careful assessment.

There is likely to be significant and unpredictable impacts on surface water yield and quality, groundwater aquifer drawdown for long periods over a wide area and will adversely impact upon existing groundwater and surface water sources and connectivity over the entire area. The impact extends beyond identified groundwater dependent ecosystems.

2. Nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities

The referral fails to identify all threatened species and ecological communities found within the area of the proposed controlled action.

A more thorough assessment of the area is needed, particularly for the identification of threatened swamplands.

The following MNES must be assessed for impact:

- Temperate Highland Peat Swamps on Sandstone – EPBC Act: Endangered
- *Eucalyptus aggregata* (Black Gum) - EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- *Kunzea cabbagei* – EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- *Pultenaea glabra* – EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- *Velleia perfoliata* – EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- *Xerochrysum palustre* (Swamp Everlasting) – EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) – EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) - EPBC Act: Endangered
- Greater Glider (*Petauroides volans*) - EPBC Act: Vulnerable
- Large-eared Pied Bat (*Chalinolobus dwyeri*) - EPBC Act: Vulnerable

3. Listed migratory species

Impacts on the following migratory species recorded in the area of impact must also be assessed:

- Rainbow Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*)
- Latham's Snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*)

Conclusion

The proposal to mine an additional 8.5 Mtpa of thermal coal until 2024, when the mine has been in care and maintenance since 2015 is totally unacceptable and cannot be approved.

Yours sincerely



President
ckinross@csu.edu.au