

# Bushwalking NSW

Bushwalking NSW Inc.

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Mining Projects

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **Objection to the State Significant Project – Angus Place Mine Extension (SSD 5602 - Amendment Exhibition)**

Bushwalking NSW Incorporated requests that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment refuses consent.

Centennial Coal has not modified the Angus Place mine extension proposal to adequately protect this nationally significant area and has sought to grandfather its consent until 2053, limiting any future extension of the Gardens of Stone National Park.

Bushwalking NSW Inc. is the peak body for bushwalkers in NSW and the ACT. It represents the interests of over 11,000 bushwalkers from 69 bushwalking clubs throughout NSW and the ACT. We provide a united voice to local, state and federal government agencies and other bodies on issues affecting bushwalkers.

Our mission is to support safe, active and inclusive bushwalking and related outdoor activities in wisely managed natural areas. In particular, we see bushwalking as a recreation that should be available to as many people as possible.

Our affiliated clubs have been undertaking walks and other activities in the Gardens of Stone and Wollemi National Parks for many decades. Members of these clubs have also walked extensively in the area known as Gardens of Stone Stage 2 and have campaigned for many years to have this area incorporated into the existing Gardens of Stone National Park. Members of our clubs are some of the most knowledgeable individuals about the natural and cultural heritage significance of this area.

We are therefore dismayed to see that Centennial Coal wishes to extend mining operations into this area and recommend that the extension is refused for the following reasons:

1. The mine extension will fracture the sandstone strata supporting nationally endangered swamps.
2. There is an unacceptable level of risk of damage to the spectacular Birds Rock, pagodas and cliffs and Aboriginal heritage sites.
3. Existing mining operations have already caused damage to nationally threatened upland swamps on the Newnes Plateau.
4. The excessive clearing of 50 hectares of public forest for additional roads, ventilation and pumping facilities is excessive and all facilities should be located away from sensitive areas.

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5. There is an unacceptable risk that the Wolgan Falls will run dry due to the proposed longwall mining panels along the Wolgan River side of the proposed mining area.
6. There is an unacceptable risk that Pristine Carne Creek, and its waters that flow through the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area will be contaminated with iron and manganese or suffer reduced flows due to fracturing of surface rocks.
7. In the seven years since Centennial Coal's consultants identified the need for targeted surveys of four nationally endangered plants, the company failed to undertake these searches. Lithgow Environment Group has in that time identified many sites where these nationally listed plants occur within the proposal, highlighting the weakness of the company's environmental assessment.

Bushwalking NSW requests that if any consent is issued, then it must be reviewed every five years with a possibility of cancellation from 2025. This accepts the likelihood that coal-fired power generation will need to be eventually phased out. Granting a consent for the next 33 years seems hardly prescient given the transition now underway to cease coal-fired power generation in Australia.

For these reasons, the amended mine extension proposal should be refused.

Yours Sincerely,



Bill Boyd

President

Bushwalking NSW Inc

<https://www.bushwalkingnsw.org.au/>

**Bushwalking NSW Inc.** - The peak body for bushwalkers in NSW & ACT  
*Keep exploring, be amazed!*