

Major Projects Assessment
Extractive Industries
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Tuesday 8 July 2014

Att: Paul Freeman

Submission of Objection
Airly Colliery Modification 3

Mudgee District Environment Group (MDEG), based in the Mid-Western Region local government area in NSW, is working for the conservation of our natural heritage and a sustainable future for our children.

MDEG is of the opinion that the cumulative impact of coal mining in the western coalfields is not being adequately addressed by the planning process.

The proposal to extend a project approved in 1991 is a case in point. The assessment requirements for mining projects are now more rigorous for very good reason. The long term legacy of mining impacts on the environment of NSW from old mines is an ongoing cost to the community that has not been adequately mitigated.

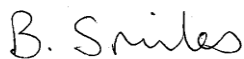
MDEG notes that since the original approval of the Airly mine, the land above it has been gazetted as a State Conservation Area (SCA). We do not support the extension of an approval that allows 1.8m subsidence impacts within an SCA.

MDEG supports that this area be included within the World Heritage Area and objects to further degradation through impacts from very old approvals.

Better management of coal stockpiles and rejects, impacts on water sources and other environmental impacts need to be better assessed and regulated.

This requires an entirely new assessment and approvals process to be initiated.

Yours sincerely



Bev Smiles
Chairperson