



Nature Conservation Council

The voice for nature in NSW

13 February 2026

Submission to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure RE: DA504-00-Mod-11

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) is the state's peak environment organisation. We represent over 200 environment groups across NSW. Together we are dedicated to protecting and conserving the wildlife, landscapes and natural resources of NSW.

NCC opposes the abovementioned project in its current form on climate and environmental grounds given that it seeks to extend coal extraction and transport at Clarence Colliery for a further five years.

Most of the coal from Clarence colliery is currently exported. Coal for nearby Mount Piper power station is predominantly sourced from other Centennial coal mines, including Springvale mine, which is a particularly environmentally harmful mine that generates millions of litres of contaminated water daily, much of which is discharged into the environment at the headwaters of Sydney's drinking water catchment.

Switching coal sourcing to Clarence and Airlie collieries would reduce reliance on Springvale mine. It would require a high-volume rail coal unloader to be built at Lidsdale siding. A pre-feasibility study of the Lidsdale unloader has already been undertaken.

Therefore, if the proposed extension is approved despite community opposition, it must come with these five strict conditions:

1. **Link approval to the upgrade of the Lidsdale coal unloader.** This critical infrastructure would reduce reliance on the polluting, wet Springvale mine.
2. **Reject the continued approval of 300,000 tonnes of coal by truck.** There is no justification for extending years of heavy truck movements through the Blue Mountains and Sydney. Rail is available and should be mandatory.
3. **Acknowledge the real impacts of truck transport.** The claim of "no or negligible" impacts does not reflect the experience of communities dealing with noise, traffic, diesel pollution and road safety risks from over 7000 truck trips every year.



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4. **Prioritise local use over export.** Most Clarence coal is exported. If extraction continues, it should supply Mount Piper Power Station to avoid pressure for new coal from more damaging mines in the region.
5. **Strengthen rehabilitation requirements.** Existing rehab commitments are outdated and inadequate. Any extension must impose modern, enforceable rehabilitation standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Your contact person at Nature Conservation Council of NSW is Senior Climate and Energy Campaigner, Jacqui Mills.

Yours sincerely,

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