



# Lithgow Environment Group Inc.

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*Preserving the Balance of Nature*

To: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water  
Compliance and Enforcement

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27 October 2024

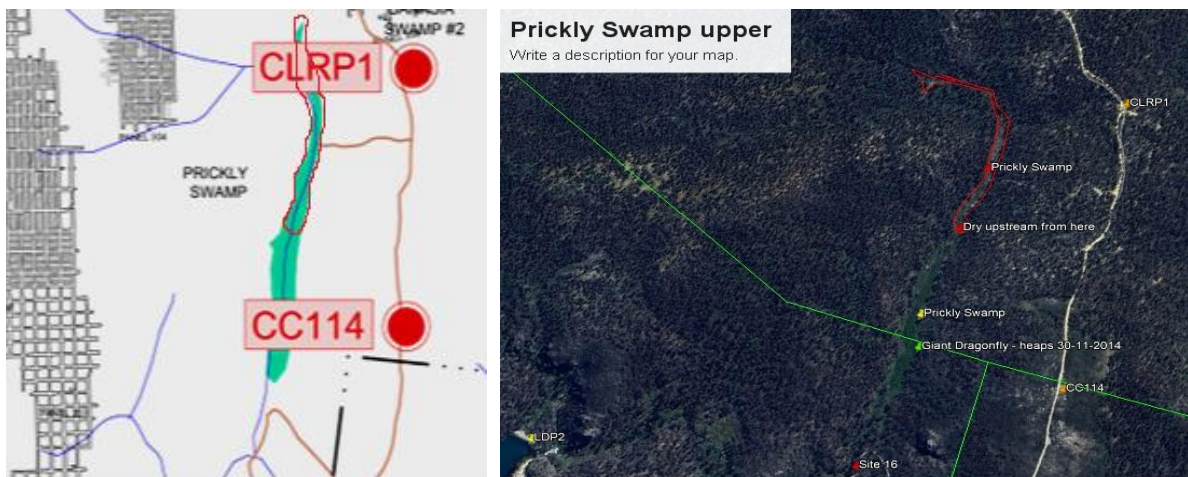
To whom it may concern

## RE: CLARENCE COLLIERY – ADDITIONAL MINING-RELATED DAMAGE

The Lithgow Environment Group Inc (LEG) wishes to notify the Department of the following swamp damage within the Centennial Clarence Colliery mine lease which may be mining-related. These 5 sites are in addition to the 20 sites which LEG notified to the Department on 11 September 2024.

### Site 21: Upper Prickly Swamp Damage (-33.449634, 150.258727)

Prickly Swamp is mapped by Centennial as a Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp (*Clarence Colliery Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR) 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, Appendix A*). The upper half of this swamp has dried out, and erosion is visible. The first sign of any surface water is at -33.450783, 150.258430. Vibrating Wire Piezometer CLR1 reported “Data gaps exist due to logger issues”. CC114 (VWP) reported “A new logger was installed in October 2021 due to reliability issues.”

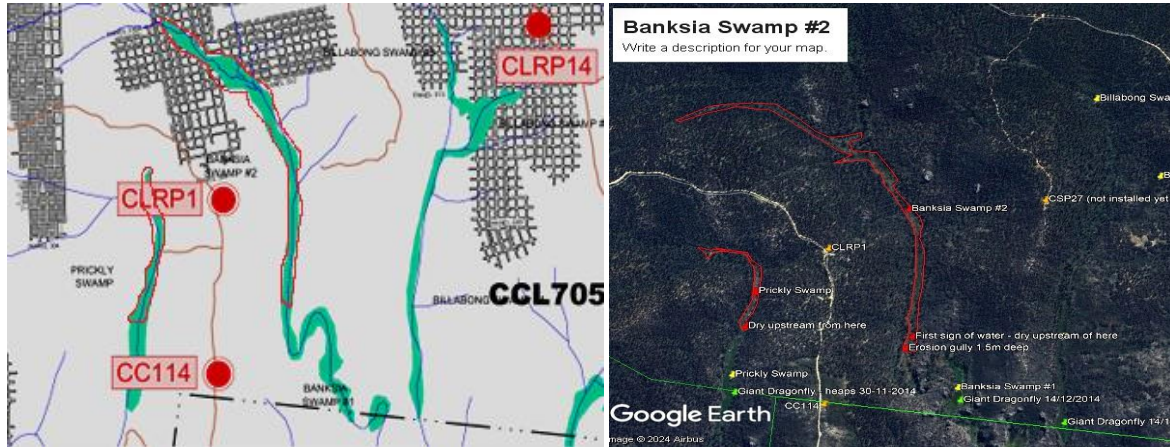


Photos 80-82: Maps of THPSS damage to upper Prickly Swamp

### Site 22: Banksia Swamp #2 Damage (-33.446771, 150.263533)

Banksia Swamp #2 is mapped by Centennial as a Newnes Plateau Shrub Swamp (*Clarence Colliery Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR) 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, Appendix A*).

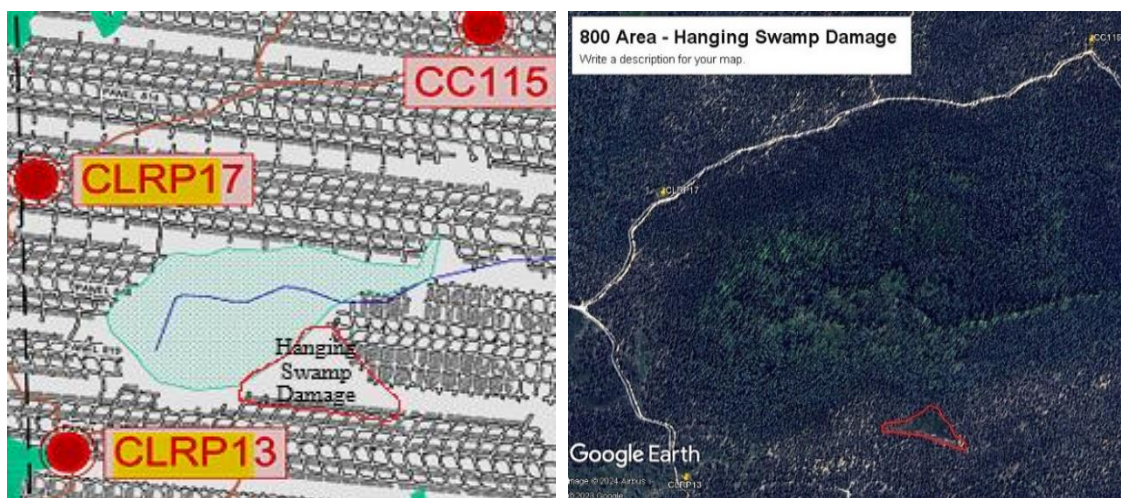
At least 1km of this swamp was dry at the time of visit. The first sign of any water was at -33.451538 150.263433, and that was 1.5m below the swamp surface in a deep erosion gully. The upper sections of this swamp were undermined by Panel 330 & 332. Mine dewatering may be a contributing factor. Erosion nick-points are forming (eg. -33.451538, 150.263433) and should be monitored/stabilised.



Photos 83-88: Site 22 – Banksia Swamp #2. Dry desiccated THPSS, erosion & nick points starting to occur.

**Site 23: Hanging Swamp Damage – Panel 818A/820 (-33.453466, 150.290740)**

This small MU51 Hanging Swamp is desiccated and showing signs of mining damage. It is about 500m east of CLRP13 on the eastern edge of the diatreme which Panels 818A/820 had to avoid.



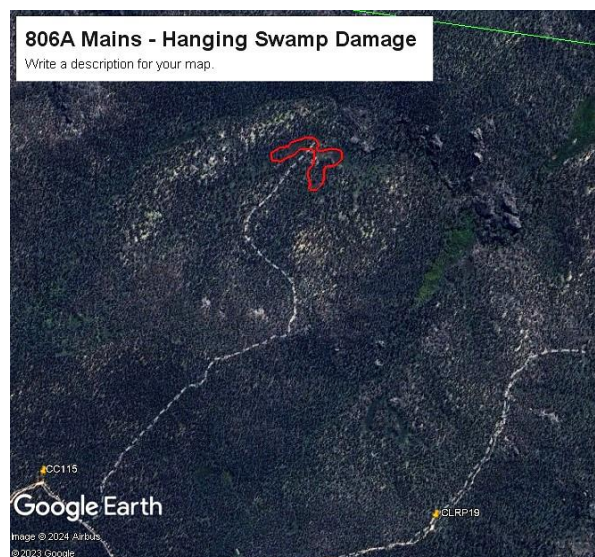
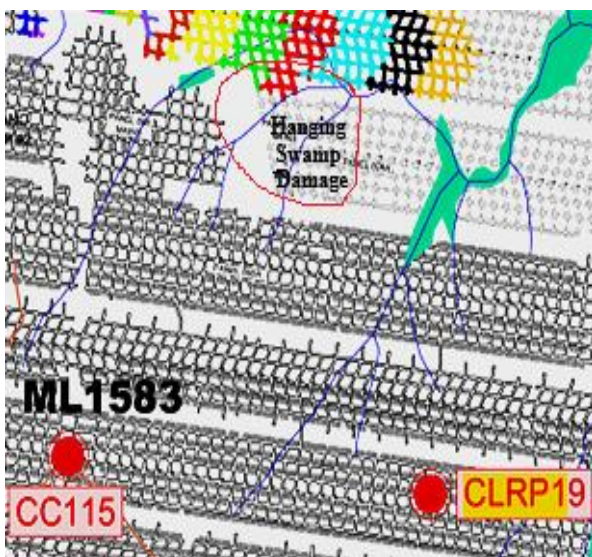


Photos 89-92: Site 23: Dead Hanging Swamp in 800 Area ("The Boot") about 500m east of CLRP13

CLRP13 reported 'depressurisation in early May 2022 likely due to mining, and continued decreasing trend during 2023, probably mining related'. CLRP13 overlies Panel 820 which was mined in 2018. 'There are large data gaps at all piezos from October 2018 to July 2021 due to logger issues. Further data gaps exist between 10 February 2023 and 18 April 2023 for Piezo #1 (below MYC). Piezo #5 (above MYC) appears to have malfunctioned in early December 2022.'

**Site 24: Hanging Swamp Damage - 806A Mains (-33.439578, 150.301448. -33.439431, 150.300625)**

Several Hanging Swamps in this area are showing early signs of deterioration and the creek upstream is dry. Panel 806A is currently being mined. CLRP19 reported "Depressurisation response since August 2021 due to mining Panel 818A. Continued decreasing trend during reporting period." Panel 812 undermined CC115 and all piezos depressurised due to first workings in June 2013. "Further depressurisation was observed in May 2016 following pillar extraction. A depressurisation response in Piezos #1, #2 and #3 (below the MYC) was observed in August 2021 due to mining of Panel 818A. During the reporting period, active mining of Panel 804 and Panel 806A was within 1 km of CC115. Following initial depressurisation observed in 2021, Piezos #1, #2 and #3 continue to show a decreasing trend".





Photos 93-97: Site 24: Damaged Hanging Swamps Panel 806A Mains, 800 Area ("The Boot")

**Site 25: Hanging Swamp collapse, GBMWA boundary east of REA3 (-33.461881, 150.258171)**

This small Hanging Swamp collapse above the Wollangambe River on the GBMWA boundary is fairly recent, and based on historic Google Earth imagery occurred sometime between July 2021 and September 2023. Whilst it may not be mining related, it is only 400m east of Clarence Colliery REA3.



Photos 98-101: Site 25 Hanging Swamp collapse above Wollangambe River on GBMWA boundary

LEG reiterate that we have not surveyed the entire mine lease, and more damage is likely to exist. We remain concerned that the DCCEEW may accept Centennial's claims of "no known evidence of mining-related impacts" above Clarence Colliery. First-workings at Clarence Colliery removed <50% of the coal seam. Current and reasonably foreseeable future mining in the 700, 800, 900 and Northern Area plan to extract 62% or more. Proposed Panel & Pillar Partial Extraction (PPPE) in the 918-920 Panels have an 85m void width. This exceeds the 61m void width of Airly Mine mini-longwalls which caused severe damage to Muggi Murrumbidgee SCA resulting in a \$150,000 Enforceable Undertaking in 2022.

We hope that the DCCEEW will thoroughly investigate this potential mining related damage above Clarence Colliery, and formally acknowledge it rather than withhold that information from the public.

Yours faithfully

Chris Jonkers on behalf of  
Lithgow Environment Group Inc. [lithgowenviro@gmail.com](mailto:lithgowenviro@gmail.com)

