



# Flaws in mine plan

## Water, road safety questioned

By **FRANCES THOMPSON**  
Upper Hunter Reporter

A PRELIMINARY assessment of a proposed open-cut coalmine in the Upper Hunter has questioned the security of landowners' water supplies and road safety, if the development goes ahead as planned.

After a Muswellbrook Shire Council environment committee review, council environmental services director Chris Gidney has identified a lack of information and inconsistent information in Centennial Hunter's draft environmental assessment of the Anvil Hill mine.

The company has lodged the document with the Department of Planning. In a letter to the department, Mr

Gidney said the committee raised concerns about how the supply of surface and ground water would be maintained, particularly for users in the Wybong Creek catchment.

Mr Gidney asked what monitoring and restrictions would apply to the discharge of water from the mine and described the surface water data as "old".

Road safety worries included the use of Wybong and Mangoola roads by mine vehicles and a "defined strategy" on traffic was called for.

"The impact of increased rail traffic has not been addressed. . .," Mr Gidney wrote.

Other major criticisms included:

- ❑ Inconsistent noise modelling.
- ❑ Large areas subject to high noise levels at night.

- ❑ Threats to Aboriginal heritage areas because of blasting.

- ❑ Lack of visual screening.

Mr Gidney's letter said the development's threat to wildlife included splitting fauna populations between animals in the mining area and others outside it.

He said the environment committee's assessment was not thorough because of "time constraints and the requirement to proceed to the exhibition phase of the development as soon as possible".

The council and the community will be able to make a more considered appraisal of Centennial's environmental assessment when the document goes on public exhibition.