

Submission Illawarra Coal's Proposed Mine Extension for Dendrobium Project SSD-8194

NSW Planning Department

We wish to strongly oppose the above application to extend Denbrobium Coal Mine.

A 30 year extension for longwall mining of the Denbrobium Mine is totally absurd.

Sydney is the only place in the world to allow longwall mining in the water catchment which would allow further risk of precious drinking water. There is already extensive irreparable damage to the river beds and the wetlands from previous years of mining which feed into the water catchment.

As a result of climate change and severe drought the dam levels are well below 50% - the Cataract Dam is closed with 27% capacity and yet this irresponsible mining company proposes to exassapate this situation with further mining in the Sydney Water Catchment area.

Allowing this Mine to operate for another 30 years would be extremely irresponsible on the part of the NSW Planning and we would hope common sense prevails.

It would harm greenhouse gas emissions (Protect Our Water Alliance Wollongong) POWA as CO2 emissions would rise significantly.

Wollongong City Council has now declared Climate Emergency and is obliged to work towards this important goal. It is unacceptable for greenhouse gas emissions to increase with this commitment as this endeavour is driven by the community.

In the foreseeable future Port Kembla Steelworks will seek alternative environmental friendly methods of generating energy for steel making other than the use of outmoded coal. There are still 11 years of mining production at Denbrobium and I understand that BHP uses one third of this coal production and other two thirds is exported.

The future of the water catchment must be preserved at all cost as the high demand for water will grow as population increases in the Sydney Basin - taking into account the serious damage already done in the water catchment directly due to longwall mining.

A few years ago The Total Environment Centre produced a film showing the degradation of the river beds and swamps and now further degradation will occur with this proposed Mine extension. The destruction of swamps and river beds in that documentary was staggering beyond belief!!

The mining will be some 300m from Avon Reservoir and 630m from

Cordeaux Reservoir and this will cause great loss of water from water courses and the swamps - this water is meant to feed into the Reservoirs.

NB - once the swamps are lost they are unable to be regenerated and as well large cracks in the riverbeds remain damaged !!

Regarding safety concerns -

The proposed workings of the mine are far too close to the Avon & Cordeaux Reservoirs.

The area is full of fault planes.

This could lead to a direct hydraulic connection between the mine and the Reservoirs and result in massive flooding.

Dr Keith Tognetti, BE Coal Mining Engineering

We ask that you seriously consider permanent closure of Denbrobium Mine and reject this proposal outright.

Yours sincerely
Irene & Keith Tognetti
53 Dallas Street
Keiraville
NSW 2500