

Our Reference: 1148-3#907

Mr M Sprott
A/Director - Resource Assessments
Department of Planning Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

27th September 2019

Dear Mr Sprott

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE DENDROBIUM COLLIERY PROJECT

The proposed Dendrobium Colliery Expansion Project (Expansion Project), is partly located in the Wollondilly Local Government Area and of strong interest to Council and the local community. The granting of an extension by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) for Council to submit comments after the closing of the formal submission period is appreciated.

A report on the Expansion Project was considered by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 16th September 2019 then subsequent Extra Ordinary Meeting on 24th September 2019. This report recognised the economic benefits of the Expansion Project in terms of both employment and importance to the continued operations of the Port Kembla Steelworks. The report also acknowledged the responsibilities of Water NSW in providing detailed comments regarding the regulation and protection of water supplies within the Drinking Catchment Special Areas.

However, the report identified that opposition to any expansion of mining in the Special Areas and the Expansion Project by Council was warranted subject to comprehensive demonstration that there will not be any compromising of water supplies. Based on these concerns, Council undertook to:

- *Oppose the expansion of the Dendrobium Colliery Extension mining operations and formally object to the proposal until the potential impacts on water sources (e.g. drinking water) and supplies are addressed to the satisfaction of Water NSW.*
- *Request that a Public Hearing be held as part of the investigation by the Independent Planning Commission.*

It is understood that objection by Council will not have the effect of automatically assigning the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) as the consent authority for the Expansion Project given that this objection was not lodged within the formal submission period. However, it is requested that the objection and its basis, as defined by the above resolution of Council, be considered by both the DPIE and the IPC during its review of the proposed Expansion Project.

The review of the Environmental Impact Statement, (EIS), by Council identified a number of positive aspects such as a detailed assessment and groundwater modelling. However, our review also identified a number of shortcomings on the key concerns of Council and

the community regarding potential impacts to water sources and the availability of potable water supplies. Council has consequently also (in part) resolved to:

- *Endorse the lodgement of a submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) on the Project Application and writes to NSW DPIE to:*
 - *That advises of Council's position regarding the Project Application.*
 - *Request a review of the process and preparation of the Preliminary Issues Report by DPIE after the receipt of the report by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Drinking Catchment (Expert Panel).*
 - *Request that impacts of the Project Application on the volumes and quality of potable water supply of the Wollondilly and Macarthur residents for both current population and projected growth (including Growth Areas) be reviewed.*

The Council position on key areas of concern associated with the Expansion Project as well as the applicable approval framework and investigation by the Expert Panel was considered by Council at its 16th September 2019 meeting and are detailed in the attached Council position paper. This position paper also refers to other aspects of the Expansion Project of less direct relevance to Wollondilly regarding potential impacts to upland swamps and movements of koalas. It is requested that this position paper in association with this correspondence be recorded as a formal submission on the proposed Expansion Project by the DPIE. It is also requested that the DPIE provide a response to each of the identified shortcomings of the EIS listed in the position paper.

Another concern is the potential implications for the adequate servicing of water supplies to both current and scheduled future growth in the Wollondilly LGA. The DPIE is requested to note in relation to this matter that Council resolved at its meeting on 18th August 2019 that *"it write to the Minister for Planning and Open Space highlighting the challenges of water conservation in our area and request this be considered in relation to growth in our region"*. The DPIE is requested to provide a response to this concern of Council as soon as practical.

I request that the DPIE provide to Council:

- Its viewpoint on the positions of Council in the accompanying Position Paper regarding the Project Expansion as well as its Response to Submissions Report.
- A commitment that the preparation of the Preliminary Issues Report will not commence until after the receipt of the Final Report by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Drinking Catchment.
- An opportunity for Council to participate in a Public Hearing held as part of the investigation of the proposed Project Expansion by the Independent Planning Commission. Specific discussions with Council is requested in the event of the Minister not issuing a Directive for the holding of such a Hearing.

Please contact Council's Manager Environmental Outcomes, Alexandra Stengl, on (02) 4677 9577 or e-mail Alexandra.stengl@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au to discuss any issues raised in Council's submission or to arrange any discussions

Yours faithfully



Michael Malone
Director Infrastructure & Environment

Overview and basis of Council position regarding the Expansion Project Application

1) Approval process for the Expansion Project Application

The Expansion Project Application is classified as a State Significant Development (SSD) that is assessed and approved under the provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is acknowledged as being required to be consistent with Standard Secretary Assessment Requirements (SSEAR) issued by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE). The Expansion Project Application is also acknowledged as being required to address additional study requirements provided by government agencies with responsibilities of relevance to management of water related impacts such as the Office of Environment and Heritage (now within DPIE).

A range of shortcomings in the adequacy of requirements for environmental assessment under the State Significant Development framework have been previously raised with the DPIE. Council consequently views as imperative that the Project be subject to a further detailed scientific investigation prior to any Determination consideration given these shortcomings.

Council position in regard to the approval process associated with the Expansion Project

- The finalised EIS must have demonstrated consistency with all SSEAR, associated advice provided by agencies, submissions received and the most current scientific research.
- The investigation of the Expansion Project Application by an Independent Planning Assessment Commission as part of the multi-agency investigative process is essential to ensure the application receives the necessary scientific scrutiny.
- Council requests that a Public Hearing be held as part of the investigation by the Independent Planning Commission.

2) Investigations by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Drinking Catchment

The investigations by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Drinking Catchment (Expert Panel) has direct relevance to the Dendrobium Colliery Project. Council supported in principle the establishment of the Expert Panel as a means of achieving current scientific advice on the potential impacts of mining operations on water supplies within the drinking catchment. Council's submission to the Panel did, however, express disappointment that the Terms of Reference did not specifically require the Panel investigate the impacts of mining operations on the quality of water within watercourses in the Drinking Catchment Area.

The Panel released its draft report on its investigation into the first Terms of Reference (***Undertake an Initial Review and Report on Specific Coal Mining Activities at the Metropolitan and Dendrobium Coal Mines in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas***) in November 2018. The findings of this Report broadly reflect and expand issues raised in a range of previous Council submissions of relevance to the Expansion Project Application and more broadly the Southern Coalfields. A key conclusion of the Report with particular relevance to the concerns of Council and the community is *"Limitations in monitoring and modelling mean that it is still difficult to verify conclusions by some stakeholders that mining has had negligible consequences on surface water supplies"*.

It is understood that the submission of the Final Report to the DPIE by the Expert Committee on its second Term of Reference had been deferred until 14 October 2019 approximately three weeks after the conclusion of the public exhibition of the Project Application. The conclusions of the initial report are viewed as indicating a need for further research in regard to both mining in the Drinking Catchment in general and the Dendrobium Expansion Project. It is therefore viewed as imperative that the findings of the final Report be considered as part of the review of the Expansion Project by both the DPIE and IPC

Council position regarding the Investigation by the Independent Expert Panel

- Following its consideration of a report regarding the Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel at its meeting on 18 June 2019, Council resolved (in part) to *“request that no Determinations be issued for any mining related applications until such time that it has received and reviewed the Final Report produced by the Panel”*.
- The establishment of the Expert Panel is welcomed as a means of achieving current scientific advice on the potential impacts of mining operations on water supplies within the drinking catchment.
- Council requests that the preparation of the Preliminary Issues Report by the DPIE commence after the receipt of the report by the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Drinking Catchment.

3) Recognised Economic Benefits and Importance of the Expansion Project

The Expansion Project Application is considered likely to result in direct economic benefits to Wollondilly in terms of increased local employment and associated flow-on effects. It is also likely to result in indirect benefits that can be identified from modelling within the document *“Community Demographic Resources for Wollondilly Shire Council”* which calculates economic benefits for the Wollondilly LGA based on the direct employment of a particular Project.

It is understood from a presentation provided by South 32 to a Councillor Workshop on 5 August 2019 that approximately 60% of the metallurgical coal required by the Port Kembla Steelworks is supplied by the Dendrobium Project. The South 32 presenter stated that approval of the Expansion Project Application was important for the continued operation of this Steelworks particularly given that coal of required quality cannot be readily sourced from other locations within the Southern Coalfields.

Council position regarding the economic benefits of the Expansion Project

Council recognises the importance of the expansion of the Dendrobium Colliery to the continued operation of the Port Kembla Steelworks in any representation with state government agencies and the proponent.

4) Potential Impacts of the Expansion Project Application to Potable Water Supplies

The Wollondilly LGA receives its water supply directly from Avon and Cataract Dams located within a section of the Drinking Catchment Area covered by the Dendrobium Project Area rather than Warragamba Dam. The potential adverse implications to this water supply (with associated economic and aesthetic effects) from water loss as a consequence of mine induced fracturing is consequently viewed as being a potential impact of the Project.

This issue has implications to the adequate servicing of current and future Development applications received by Council as well as servicing Growth Areas that includes Wilton and Appin within Wollondilly. However, the EIS would appear not to contain a discussion and assessment of the implications of the Project to the ongoing continuation of potable water supply in a regional context. It would also not appear to have investigated potential long-term associated social and economic implications of any such reduction in supply to consumers.

Council position regarding potential impacts to potable water supplies

Impacts of the Expansion Project on the volumes and quality of potable water supply of the Wollondilly and Macarthur residents for both current population and projected growth (including Growth Areas) be reviewed.

5) General Adequacy of the EIS in Relation to the key concerns of Council and the

The following aspects of the EIS are supported given their consistency with the position of Council and expressed concerns of the local community as well as by Water NSW regarding the potential impacts of mining to the condition of water sources:

- A detailed assessment and groundwater modelling based on a significant level of data collection and analysis.
- No direct undermining of the existing Avon and Cordeaux Dam walls with a minimum 300m longwall setback adopted from the dam full levels.
- The design of the longwall layout to avoid direct mining of third order watercourses or above.
- The modelling of geological faults as part of the Geological Structure Review within the EIS that has consistency with current scientific research regarding the appropriate setback of longwalls to avoid or minimise impacts to watercourses.
- The modelling of groundwater and geological faults at identified mine induced fracturing from the Expansion Project Application would not extend to the surface. In broad terms, this means that any impacts would be restricted to shallow groundwaters.

The provision of detailed comments regarding the adequacy of applicable sections of the EIS is recognised as being the responsibility of Water NSW (as the regulator) as well as Project Advice from relevant research agencies including the Commonwealth Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC). It is also recognised that the adequacy of the EIS in addressing issued SSEAR's and Project Advice is a matter for the respective research organisations and Government Agencies. However, the following considered shortcomings based on issues previously raised in submissions and known research have been identified following a review of applicable sections of the EIS by Council Staff:

- The detailed scientific assessment is viewed as having an emphasis on potential adverse implications to water quantity with a generic description of potential adverse implications to water quality such as *"Potential impacts on water quality as a result of the subsidence related impacts are predicted to be localised and temporary"*.
- The EIS is not considered to have adequately modelled and considered the extent of geological fracturing on a localised scale to enable the identification of appropriate buffers that would avoid (preferably) impacts to water sources.
- The Project proposes to directly undermine smaller watercourses that will be the subject of Plans after Determination rather than a detailed scientific based assessment of likely subsidence induced impacts to all watercourse orders at the application stage.
- The EIS is not considered to have adequately identified potential impacts to aquatic ecology resulting from any subsidence induced disturbance to shallow groundwaters (as Dr Ian Wright from the USWS has proposed to have occurred at Redbank Creek). This shortcoming is viewed as being illustrated by the statement in the EIS that *"Potential impacts to aquatic ecology as a result of predicted localised and temporary subsidence related changes would be minor and short-term"*.

The above identified shortcomings by Council Staff highlight the imperativeness of the Expansion Project Application being subject to further detailed scientific investigations prior to any consideration of Determination as part of the multi-agency consultation process. The shortcomings also highlight the importance of a Public Hearing being held at as part of this investigation process as well as from a community engagement perspective. It is understood in this regard that the holding of a Public Hearing is at the discretion of the NSW Minister for Planning & Public Spaces. Council requests discussions with DPIE and IPC over issues raised in its submissions in the event of such a directive being issued for the Expansion Project.

6) Basis of Council position regarding the key issue of potential impacts to water sources

The fractures to bedrocks in water sources / waterways that can result in fracturing of overlying geological strata with associated impacts to the quantity and quality of ground and surface water sources is a key concern of Council and the local community. Applicable resolutions of Council (Attached) are viewed as being directly transferrable to the Dendrobium Project (on a higher level to comply with Drinking Water standards) given that this Project utilises similar mining technique as other mining operations. The following provides an overview of the recommended basis for Council's position specifically in regard to the Project Application consistent with its existing resolutions and issues identified in the EIS discussed above.

(i) Monitoring and regulation of potential impacts to water sources

The concerns of Council regarding the monitoring and regulation of environmental impacts associated with mining in Catchment Special Areas are viewed as having a high level of synergy with a submission provided by Water NSW to the Expert Panel following the release of its Initial Report. It is understood from recent discussions with Water NSW that its submission on the Expansion Project Application has requested greater investigation and modification to the submitted longwall layout due to considered shortcomings in the assessment of potential impacts to water sources and consistency with recent applicable scientific research. Council has consequently in a broad perspective aligned its position over the monitoring and regulation of impacts to water sources with Water NSW's position regarding both mining in Catchment Areas and the Expansion Project Application.

(ii) Identification and Assessment of potential impacts to water sources

The identification and assessment of potential impacts of mining on surface and groundwater sources is noted to be the subject of a range of research and Project Advice by applicable government agencies and research organisations since the original Determination of the Dendrobium Colliery in 2003. A key relevant research document is considered "*Information Guidelines for Proponents Preparing Coal Seam Gas and Large Mining Proposals*" by the *Independent Expert Scientific Committee (IESC)*.

The assessment and management of these impacts is also the subject of a range of research known to Council Staff. This includes ongoing research and production of research publications by the IESC and research into the impacts of mining on the condition of Redbank Creek associated with the Tahmoor Colliery Project by Dr Ian Wright from the Western Sydney University. A copy of this research by Dr Ian Wright could likely be provided to DPIE upon request.

A wide range of relevant Council submissions including Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel and the Tahmoor South Project Application have expressed the view that there must be a detailed assessment impacts to the hydrological and ecological features of surface and water sources (quantity and quality) accompanied by extensive data collection at the application stage. These submissions have also requested this assessment be consistent with current scientific research, advice and publications referred to above. Council has consequently in a broad perspective based its position regarding these impacts on known and future research as well as Project Advice provided by applicable government agencies and research organisations regarding this issue.

Summary of Recommended Council Position in Regard to Impacts to Water Sources Associated with the Dendrobium Project Application

- That Council opposes the expansion of the Dendrobium Colliery mining operations and formally objects to the proposal until the potential impacts on water sources (e.g. drinking water) and supplies are addressed to the satisfaction of Water NSW.
- Council send correspondence to Water NSW supporting their position and submissions regarding mining in Catchment areas and offering assistance and support to the efforts of Water NSW to protect water supplies for the Greater Sydney Basin.

7) Adequacy of the EIS in Addressing Other Issues of Relevance to Council and Wollondilly LGA

The Project also has implications of indirect relevance, however, of pertinence to Council and the Wollondilly LGA. The following provides an overview of this issue in terms of identified broad adequacy of the EIS and associated broad Council position.

(i) Adequate Protection of Upland Swamps.

The EIS is noted to state there are 20 upland swamps within the Expansion Project Application Area. These swamps are viewed as having a high ecological value as well as providing important hydrological functions for maintaining the condition of watercourses in a catchment context. A review of the adequacy of the EIS in the assessment and management of potential impacts of the Expansion Project Application on these functions is acknowledged as being a matter for applicable research organisations and government agencies given their high level of complexity.

The EIS is considered by Council staff to be broadly adequate in discussing the features of the upland swamps and potential impacts of the Expansion Project within the technical knowledge of Council staff. However, it is noted with a level of concern to state that the (Swamp Offset Framework) which forms part of the Biodiversity Offset Policy for Major Projects for SSD is intended to be utilised. It is requested to be noted that Council's submission on the NSW Integrated Mining Policy in August 2015 expressed doubts over the adequacy of this Framework in comprehensively offsetting the hydrological and ecological functions of any impacted swamp.

Council position regarding the protection of upland swamps

Council does not support the utilisation of the *Policy Framework for Biodiversity Offsets for Upland Swamps and Associated Threatened Species* subject to the adoption of applicable recommendations of the Final Report by the Expert Panel and their incorporation into any issued Determination.

(ii) Potential Impacts to Koala Habitat Corridors.

Council staff were contacted by South 32 in late 2016 during the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment seeking comments on koala issues following the identification of koala habitat in the Project Area. Council staff requested that a number of activities specifically associated with the protection of koalas be undertaken during the preparation of the EIS largely in regard to surveys and monitoring of their movement. The EIS is considered to have adequately responded to these requests in regard to koala populations and their movement within the Expansion Project Application Area.

Council staff however also specifically requested the role of the site in allowing for the movement of koalas in a landscape context and analysis of existing records be investigated during the preparation of the EIS. The purpose of this request was to identify any habitat corridor and linkage between any populations in the Dendrobium Project Area and known koala populations to the west in the vicinity of Wilton. The EIS is noted to contain a description of koala habitats and populations in a regional context, however, is not considered to have specifically responded to this request.

Council position regarding the protection of koala habitat corridors

The issue of any impacts of the Expansion Project to the movement of koalas in a landscape form part of the multi-agency investigation of the Expansion Project Application (that includes consultation with applicable researchers).

ATTACHMENT 1

RESOLUTIONS OF COUNCIL RELATED TO MINING

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 16th July 2007

- 1. That Council make a formal submission and oral presentation to the Inquiry into Coal Mining in the Southern Coalfields.*
- 2. That Council's submission stresses Council's opposition to any mining that affects our river systems.*
- 3. That Council's submission emphasises the Mine Subsidence Board's responsibility to restore structures damaged as a result of mining activity.*
- 4. That the Inquiry increase the pressure on the mining companies and the mining equipment suppliers to develop a method of disposing of the excess material back into the cavity as the mining is taking place.*
- 5. That Council calls for the completion of the Maldon Dombarton rail link to transport coal.*
- 6. That Council write to the Minister and express our disappointment that the panel hearing is being held in Camden.*
- 7. That Council offer its facilities at Wollondilly.*

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 16 March 2009

1. That Council write to the Minister and Shadow Minister for Mining requesting that Councils be compensated through mining royalties and the Mine Subsidence Board for the additional cost of infrastructure projects.
2. That Council support the Association of Mining Related Councils in their endeavour to get a percentage of the mining royalties for such instances.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 14 August 2009

1. That Wollondilly Shire Council write to the Minister for Primary Industries and Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability expressing its concerns over the recent cracking of Myrtle Creek.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 19 October 2009

1. That Wollondilly Shire Council write to the Minister for Planning and Shadow Minister for Planning calling for third-party appeals to be allowed for Part 3A processes or that Part 3A be removed from NSW Government Policy.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 15 November 2010

1. That Council send correspondence to the Minister for Planning requesting that a new Part 3A application be lodged for the Bulli Seam Project, given the significant changes to the original application by the proponent and the flaws in the original exhibition process.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of March 2013

1. That Wollondilly Council write to the Minister of Regional Infrastructure and Services requesting a review of the methodology used to classify the 'tiers' of Mining Affected Communities and expressing its concern at the relegation of Wollondilly's Community to Tier 3, excluding it from any support from the Resources for Regions Programs.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 11 December 2014

1. That Council write to the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister for Planning requesting that the impacts on communities and infrastructure from coal mine gas drainage be included in the criteria for Local Government assistance through the Resources to Regions Program.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 16 March 2015

1. Council convene a meeting with invited community members of Douglas Park and representatives of Illawarra Coal to facilitate a consultation between the parties regarding Illawarra Coal's proposed gas extraction and power plant development in the Douglas Park area.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 20 July 2015

1. That Council write to the Federal Minister for Environment, the Federal Minister for Agriculture, the NSW Minister for Planning, the NSW Minister for Primary Industries and the NSW Minister for Industry Resources and Energy in regard to the approval of the Shenhua Watermark mine on the Liverpool Plains to:
 - Express dismay regarding the approval of the mine on the Liverpool Plains by the Federal Government given the region's major role in Australia's food production balanced with a vulnerable environment and the unacceptable risk to this balance that the mine may cause.
 - Express its concerns that in a local context, the productive peri-urban areas of Sydney are also being threatened by unsympathetic land uses.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 20 July 2015

1. That Council endorse the submission on exhibited components of the draft Integrated Mining Policy.
2. That Council send correspondence to the NSW Minister for Planning tat:
 - (a) Acknowledges the benefits in introducing the Integrated Mining Policy.
 - (b) Expresses disappointment that the exhibited Policy has not addressed issues raised in previous Council submissions.
 - (c) Advises that Council is not able to finalise its position until all documents associated with the Policy have been publicly exhibited and submissions received.
 - (d) Stresses the importance of the inclusion of all stakeholders in the notification process.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 21 September 2015

1. That Council continue to monitor the Douglas Park Mine Gas Drainage and Power Plant Proposal by South 32 and that Council continue to engage with residents of Douglas Park regarding their concerns about the proposal.

2. That Council throughout the process, advocate on behalf of the community, communicating their concerns to the consent authority, our state member, mining authority, and any other applicable minister/authority.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 15 February 2016

- That Council take a proactive role in advocating for the protection of the natural environment from impacts of mining under Redbank Creek.
- That Council write to the State Minister for Planning, the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Resources and Energy expressing its concern that compensation mechanisms for damage to the natural environment from mining impacts is not considered in the function of the Mine Subsidence Board and Council calls for this situation to be reviewed and remedied.
- That Council consider the allocation of resources in the third Quarterly Review to undertake advocacy regarding this issue.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 15 February 2016

- That Council take a proactive role in advocating for the protection of the natural environment from impacts of mining under Redbank Creek.
- That Council write to the State Minister for Planning, the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Resources and Energy expressing its concern that compensation mechanisms for damage to the natural environment from mining impacts is not considered in the function of the Mine Subsidence Board and Council calls for this situation to be reviewed and remedied.
- That Council consider the allocation of resources in the third Quarterly Review to undertake advocacy regarding this issue.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 21 March 2016

- That Council write to the NSW Minister for Environment and NSW Minister for Resources and Energy requesting:
 - The establishment of on-going funding for investigations and monitoring of the condition of watercourses that are identified as being impacted by subsidence associated with underlying operations.
 - Ongoing funding be made available to local governments, research organisations and community groups upon the lodgement of suitably detailed applications.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 16 May 2016

- That Council requests a copy of the report investigating possible non-compliance regarding the conditions of consent for the Bulli Seam Operation Project and the Extraction Plan for long-walls 901-904 from the Department of Planning and Environment Compliance Team and EPA.

- That Council also request information from South 32 as to what their approved setback from the Nepean River is.
- That copies of these requests be forwarded to the Local Member for Wollondilly, Jai Rowell and that a report come back to Council on the responses received.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 20 June 2016:

- Write to the relevant Federal and State Ministers, the Federal and State local members, the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area Advisory Committee and UNESCO demanding that action be taken to further investigate the causes of continued water loss from the World Heritage listed Thirlmere Lakes. That this action includes the funding and support of rigorous and detailed research into:
 - The water loss patterns and trends in the past and over current times.
 - Predictive modelling of the consequences to the Lakes's biology and hydrology of continued or prolonged water loss.
 - Targeted investigation into the suggested cause of the water loss in relation to the Tahmoor Mine's operations in the past and future.
 - The potential of engineered options to reinstate and maintain water levels to protect the biodiversity and hydrology of the Lakes.
- That Council, through the oversight of the Minerals and Energy Resource Committee, undertake a facilitated solutions focused forum to investigate and identify solutions to the continued observed water loss from the World Heritage listed Thirlmere Lakes and that Glencore and other key stakeholders associated with the three tiers of government be invited to participate in this forum.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 18 June 2018

- That Council write to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to:
 - I. Welcome the establishment of the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment and its composition.
 - II. Requests that no Determinations be used for any mining related application within the Catchment Area until such time that it has received and reviewed the Final Report produced by the Panel.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 18th July 2016

- The Executive include the following recommendations in the Business Paper of the next available meeting of the Association with a view to advocate the position of Council and the local community defined by the supplied resolutions:
 - i. The Association provide support to the resolutions of Wollondilly Shire Council regarding concerns over the continued observed water loss from the World Heritage listed Thirlmere Lakes and the conclusions of recent scientific studies regarding this matter.
 - ii. Pursuant to i), Correspondence be sent to the NSW Minister for Resources and Energy (the Hon Anthony Roberts) and the NSW Minister for Primary Industries (the Hon Niall Blair) advising of the support to the resolutions and requesting a prompt response.

Resolutions of Council at its meeting of 17th September 2018

- That Council write to the Minister to request further investigation into the impacts of fracturing and modified flow of Redbank Creek. As identified in Dr Ian Wright's Research Study for Western Sydney University, it is reported that Redbank Creek has the worst pollution from Mine Subsidence in the world. This study identified the rehabilitation of the creek channel and recovery of the creek water quality / ecology is very challenging.
- That Council request that the Minister investigate how the mining company could contribute to the rehabilitation of Redbank Creek.
- That Council workshop how we can advocate to assist Dr Wrights research findings and that we add it to the State Issues Paper.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 15 October 2018

- That letters be sent to relevant Commonwealth MP's asking the Australian Government to use their Constitutional power and duty to protect water sources within the Drinking Catchment Areas of Avon, Nepean, Cordeaux and Cataract Dams from South 32's Dendrobium coal mining activities.

Resolution of Council at its meeting of 19 November 2018

- That Council send correspondence to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment seeking the reasons for all of the recommendations provided by the Independent Expert Committee for Mining in the Drinking Catchment not being incorporated into the Approval for Longwall 16 dated 30th May 2018.

Resolution of Council of 18th March 2019

- That Council endorse the draft submission on the Tahmoor South Colliery Project Application.
- That Council write to NSW Department of Planning & Environment requesting that the current application be reconsidered due to identified significant shortcomings (detailed in the draft submission).

