



# Nature Conservation Council

The voice for nature in NSW

July 6, 2015

## **RE: Objection to the Wongawilli Mine – Time Extension Modification 09\_0161 MOD 1**

To whom it may concern,

The Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales (NCC) is the state's peak environment organisation. We represent more than 130 environment groups across NSW. Together we are dedicated to protecting and conserving the wildlife, landscapes and natural resources of NSW. We strive to achieve an ecologically sustainable society through advocacy, education, research and community empowerment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wongawilli Mine Time Extension Modification. We request that this project be rejected due to expected impacts that it will have on Sydney's drinking water catchment. We understand that this modification seeks to extend the approved duration of mining operations at the Wongawilli Nebo Area Project by 5 years, to 2020.

This mine operates within the Special Areas of Sydney's drinking water catchment. This is of significant concern due to the known impacts of longwall coal mining on the water catchment. The Wongawilli Mine remains inactive to this day due to a mine collapse in 2014. Wollongong Coal has proven its self not to be a fit and proper person, and hence should not be entrusted to mine for coal in this sensitive area for an increased length of time.

We have grave concerns for Wattle Creek and Little Wattle Creek, both of which flow in to the Cordeaux No. 2 Reservoir. The existing Nebo longwalls come within 500 metres of this Reservoir which is an important part of our drinking water infrastructure. Water security is simply too important to allow this mine to be extended.

We are also concerned about the Western Drivage proportion of this project. The Sydney Catchment Authority has previously objected to the Western Drivage which consists of four underground roadways, including sections underneath Avon Dam. These roadways were granted approval in 2011 however less than 500m of the drivage has been developed since that time. We understand that the reason for Wollongong Coal's desire to build the drivage is to access additional coal reserves that they do not have the approval to mine. This is simply unacceptable, particularly in light of concerns raised by the SCA regarding the "relatively pristine parts of the Schedule 1 Metropolitan Special Area located in the catchments of Avon and Nepean Dams"i.

Thank you for the invitation to provide comment on this extension project. We respectfully ask that it be rejected due to the likely impacts on Sydney's drinking water catchment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 9516 1488 or [dbarham@nature.org.au](mailto:dbarham@nature.org.au) to discuss our submission any further.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daisy Barham', followed by a period.

Daisy Barham

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

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<sup>i</sup> Source: *Sydney Catchment Authority Submission on the project, December 2010, p. 4*