

Wongawilli Mine – Time Extension Modification

Submission

I object to the proposed modification to extend the approved duration of mining operations at the NRE Wongawilli Nebo Area Project by 5 years, to 2020 on the following grounds:

Longwall mining in the Nebo Area

1. This mining undermines creeks flowing into Cordeaux reservoir No 2 and within 500 metres of the reservoir, endangering water supplies
2. Previous mining in this area had to be halted as the mine collapsed and buried the longwall machine when the company attempted a short cut.
3. The company may not have the expertise to safely carry out this mining based on past experiences.
4. Any further mishaps will risk reducing the supply of water to Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly council areas (as well as Sydney) from an important catchment area.

Western Driveage

1. Wollongong Coal do not have approval to mine this vast area, so should not be allowed to commence this preliminary work here.
2. Sydney Water Corporation has objected to mining the Western Driveage as it will provide access to “a potentially large new mining area in relatively pristine parts of the Schedule 1 Metropolitan Special Area located in the catchments of the Avon and Cordeaux Dams.”
3. This authority was formed by the government to protect our water catchments and their objection should be heeded.

It appears that this company may not have the wherewithal to carry out these projects; they are currently suspended from trading on the ASX for failing to supply adequate financial reporting.

This project could potentially negatively impact on the Avon and Cordeaux Dams and associated watercourses. This area significantly contributes to the water supply of up to 4.6 million people (and growing) in the Greater Sydney area and all efforts should be made to protect it, not put it at risk.

What other city in the world allows longwall mining under it's water catchments? On that basis alone, this application should be rejected.

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