

## **Personal Submission-Susan Sergent**

### **Preliminary Works Project Modification 4 Bellambi Creek Gully MP 10\_0046**

I object to the modification application.

While most of the environmental impact opinions regarding the application address significant issues, including flooding impacts, there are limited 'big-picture' views.

That is, specific issues have been isolated from the total landscape or topography between the Wollongong Coal Ltd. mine and the Bellambi Creek outflow at Bellambi Beach, a distance of about 3kms.(the two markers).

The main issue regarding this application is how Bellambi Creek looks now between these two markers from above (see attached Google Earth map).

Whilst any improvements to limiting coal pollution wash from the mine site is welcome, flood mitigation must occur along the full length between the two markers.

Downstream flood mitigation is equally as important as upstream (mine) flood mitigation.

This is only indirectly assessed in the environmental and other reports.

Please find attached a number of photographs showing the flow of Bellambi Creek under a highway, expressway and busy secondary road (Pioneer Road, Bellambi), not to mention many other suburban streets, including Brompton road, Bellambi NSW where a man lost his life in Bellambi creek during the 1998 Wollongong floods.

Although Bellambi Creek at the Bellambi Surf Club on Google satellite maps shows free flowing water (the photo on Google Maps is dated 26 April 2007) it is now significantly overgrown, much like the attached photos of Brompton Road and Gladstone Street, Bellambi.

And this is the challenge for a number of authorities-i.e. keeping up with clearing the hundreds of catchment creeks, estuaries and tributaries finding their way down the Illawarra escarpment.

I therefore object to the modification application because it is a piecemeal solution and has been put forward as a cost-saving strategy for the financially troubled mining operators.

Any future development applications and/or modifications should take into consideration the whole of the relevant topography.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Susan Sergent