

Ms. Elle Donnelly
Planning New South Wales
Thursday, April 30 2015

12 Eliza Place
Orange NSW 2800

Re: Modification to Cadia East's Extraction Rate

_Dear Ms. Donnelly

As a concerned citizen of Orange I wish to lodge my objection to Cadia Mine's proposal to extend their rate of extraction from 27 mta to 32 mta, on the grounds that an increase in the mines extraction rate, by their own admission will result in an increase in water usage of 18.5%.

Although the mine proposal says that they do not anticipate an increase in demand on external supply due to their storage facilities, an increase in water use of such magnitude has the potential to impact on water usage for the region should we return to times of severe drought, such as occurred in 2009. Unfortunately, Cadia mines use such a large amount of water in their processing that any increase has the potential to impact on water supplies throughout the Orange District, particularly in times of short supply.

Of particular concern is the potential threat to the Belabula River. This highly stressed stream is already subject to numerous extraction measures (according to the report associated with this proposal, the annual extraction rate is 7 000 ML/yr). It is also the subject of a controversial dam proposal, which will also have a detrimental impact on the aquatic ecology of the system. If Cadia mines expands, and water becomes scarce, there is every reason to become concerned that the proponents could apply for more water from the Belabula.

Even if, as the proponents claim increased water use is within the current constraints, I object to the mine using more water, which could be better used for environmental and agricultural purposes, rather than for crushing rocks. During times of drought in particular, granted extra extraction could have a severely negative impact on our water supply at a regional level , the impact of which has never fully been explored.

Extra demand for water is an element in the above proposal that requires more research and modelling in terms of its impact on regional water use in times of drought. Until this is done the proposal should be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

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