

1.1.2. 1.2.1.

INTRODUCTION

Role and Responsibilities of WaterNSW

Statutory Role


The Water NSW Act 2014 sets out the objectives, functions, powers and regulatory responsibilities of WaterNSW. A key responsibility under the Act is for WaterNSW to ensure that ‘declared catchment areas and water management works in such areas, are managed and protected so as to promote water quality, the protection of public health and public safety, and the protection of the environment’. WaterNSW has regulatory powers to control access to Special Areas and to manage mining activities and impacts in the declared Sydney catchment area.

1.2.2. WaterNSW Mining Principles

WaterNSW has defined Mining Principles to manage mining and coal seam activities in Declared Catchments. A link to the WaterNSW Mining Principles is given below:


<http://www.waternsw.com.au/water-quality/catchment/mining>

The Principles establish the outcomes WaterNSW considers essential to protect the drinking water supplies to the four and half million people of Sydney, Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands, Goulburn and the Shoalhaven. A key policy position of WaterNSW is that:

 WaterNSW opposes any longwall mining located within the Dams Safety Committee notification areas surrounding WaterNSW’s dams in the Declared Catchment, or elsewhere, where it is predicted to damage Sydney drinking water supply infrastructure.

The Principles address the following:

 Protection of water quality;

 Protection of water quantity;



Protection of human health;



Protection of water supply infrastructure;



Protection of the ecological integrity of Special Areas; and



Provision of sound and robust evidence regarding environmental impacts.