

08.06.2022

Dear Minister Roberts,

I urge you to **reject** the proposed expansion of Dendrobium Mine into Area 5.

I am a Wollongong resident and have grown up within 10km of Dendrobium Mine. I see many reasons to oppose this mine proposal, however I will focus on my perspective as a young person.

Now is not the time to be inviting a new generation into coal mining. Instead of allowing South32 to invest the time, skills, and lives of young people into coal mining, the NSW government ought to be training our youth in industries that will last their entire working lives. There is currently enough coal on the Dendrobium books to continue production until 2030, and this proposed expansion extends this to 2041. The 2030 horizon gives enough time to implement a comprehensive plan to retrain existing miners, set up new local heavy industries, and get them out of coal mining.

South32 claims that the mine expansion will provide a short-term economic benefit (around 20 years). The climate change, ecosystem damage, water loss, and destruction of First Nations culture that would be caused by the proposed expansion would last forever, or at least for thousands of years. No amount of coal in the next two decades can fix these millennia-long problems. Approving this project would not be fair to future generations.

I expect to be alive when coal mining ceases in NSW. I will see the mines close, the workers found new jobs, the sites rehabilitated. Except they will not be completely rehabilitated. You cannot uncrack the ancient slabs of sandstone that sit atop the Illawarra Escarpment, you cannot remove all the heavy metals from the soils and waterways released by the mine, and it is very difficult to extract greenhouse gases from the atmosphere in the quantities produced by the extraction and combustion of coal and petroleum. So the sooner we get to that day where we no longer extract coal, the safer and healthier and more intact the future world will be. And when we look back to moments like our present one, history will not be kind to those who allow coal mines to proceed.

Please reject the proposed expansion of Dendrobium mine.

Regards,

Dylan Green

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