

RE: Opposition to any extension to longwall mining within drinking water catchments.

The damage already caused to the drinking water catchment has been recorded both within the government and by the public and under no circumstances should South 32 be allowed to continue endangering the water supply into the future, especially with the high number of new residents that are moving into Sydney.

We know that once upland swamps are dried out when the base rock is damaged, they will not recover and that they are more susceptible to bushfire. Subsidence, and valley closer causes rivers and creeks to dry out and that our southern catchment areas including Woronora have been compromised by longwall mining by various past and present mining companies.

During the drought Camden, Wollondilly and Campbelltown residents and businesses were only a few days away from having their taps turned off, the Cataract Dam had ceased delivering water to the heritage listed canal and the local drinking water supplies and water was being pumped up from the Shoalhaven River, but this had compromised that river and the Oyster Industry and had to stop.

There are no plans for any alternative water supplies to be added to the Illawarra or Campbelltown Macarthur regions, including any suggestion that a new desalination plant will be built even if water from one of these could reach these areas.

The Emplacement Area at Westcliffe cannot be expected to accept or cope with any further coal reject from the Dendrobium Mine, chemicals have now been entering the Georges River for over twenty years and although a desalination plant is being built this will still not deliver high quality creek water to the river system which has already been severely compromised by several longwalls being allowed to cross the river over many years without restoration work being completed.

The Georges River was once a free flowing and beautiful river with native fish and platypus often seen but during the drought it completely dried out leaving what water that was left full of green slim and unfit for native animals to drink.

Dust from the Emplacement Area has already made residents of Appin complain about the amount of dust they are receiving in their homes

Allans Creek within the Illawarra has been used as a dumping area for brine for many years and this should not be continued or added to

any further damage to the environmental significance of the region is not acceptable and although our water catchment areas may be out of sight they are not out of mind.



Emplacement Area at Westcliffe



Waratah Rivulet between longwalls  
being allowed to continue



Georges River between longwalls  
being allowed to continue

