

To whom it may concern,

My name is Phil Diamond, I'm a long time resident of the village of Mount Kembla where Dendrobium Mine has its portal to extract coal from the Sydney water catchment. I joined the Dendrobium Community Consultative Committee (DCCC) over a decade ago, and have been privileged to have had the opportunity to visit the catchment annually where the mine has extracted coal and where it plans to extend into area 5. S32 have taken the group on tours of the steelworks and recently the Kemira valley coal train loading facility that is on the northern flank of Mount Kembla village plus the coalwash emplacement at Westcliff Colliery.

I speak here not as a representative of the DCCC. These are my own thoughts on Dendrobium's extension plans after reading many reports on all aspects of their operation, site tours and visits, liaising with the community and interest groups (national parks, DPIE, POWA, Lock the gate, local and state politicians etc). I find the plans for extending into area 5 flawed. Whilst I'm much relieved to see their ambitions have been reduced from the original proposal, the arguments presented for continued mining do not mitigate the concerns from Sydney water, and the Dam Safety Committee that recommend a set back from Avon Dam of at least 1.5Kms, while the mine wants as close as 1km. Also long walls continue to be a very damaging 305 metres wide, as those in area 3B which has led to the cracking and draining of vital upland swamps and creeks, changing the ecosystem for hundreds of years, if not forever. I've seen that damage first hand.

I could write for days on my thoughts of Dendrobium Mine and the catchment .. While the proposed Height of Extraction of Metallurgical coal from the Bulli Seam in area 5 will be less, slumping of the surface will continue to crack the upland surface features, lead to less groundwater and less dam inflows as happens with the area 3B and this for a grade of coal the Bluescope can continue to operate without, torpedoing the argument that the steelworks will collapse if Dendrobium has to close in 2 or 3 years after extracting what they currently can in the area 3 precinct of Wongawilli coal.

If the minister sees fit to allow the extension into area 5, I think it should meet world best practice and follow the advice of experts by reducing the width of longwalls, setting back at least 1.5km from Avon Dam, and forgoing the rite to return to area 3C, that they will have to drain of CO2 and Methane for 10 years to be able to work that area safely. This would see the mine close earlier than 2041 to be somewhere in the early 2030's. Whilst eliminating the release of further fugitive gasses from a war weary area 3.

The Public awareness and concerns of our changing climate and environment now should dictate our responses to projects of this magnitude. Plus the advancement of technology to eliminate coal from the steel making process is advancing rapidly.

Many submissions will go into further scientific detail on why this proposal should be rejected and I tend to agree with the experts. I also recognize the concerns of employees at S32 and supporting industries but the times are changing rapidly with societal concerns and environmental problems. 20 years Dendrobium has been operating in our village and we have benefited from money spent in the community but a date must be set for the closure of the mine and it must be way before 2041.

Regards,

Phil Diamond