

ATTACHMENT 2



NSW Government
Major Projects

State Significant Infrastructure
Dendrobium Mine Extension Project
Wollongong City, Wingecarribee Shire, Wollondilly Shire
Application Number: SSI-33143123

24 May 2022

Regarding the Dendrobium Mine and impacts on water supply

Sydney is well served by the Special Areas set aside to provide us with the bulk of our high-quality drinking water supply. Despite recent rain we do not have an ongoing excess of available water. Recent years have seen the introduction of water restrictions and one-off efficiency measures to cover the increasing demand on water supply from an expanding population. The desalination plant is now operational and available to contribute expensive, energy-intensive water supply. As we are required to build increasing resilience of the water supply system in times of low rainfall Sydney will be looking to storm water harvesting and water recycling measures to augment supply.

It is incongruous to ask Sydney residents to make water savings and pay for high-end engineering solutions to supply water needs while at the same time allowing damage to our water catchment. The quantity and quality of drinking water collected from reservoirs in the Special Areas is impacted by mining operations, despite the legislated requirement to protect these values.

I support the findings of The Independent Planning Commission who assessed the Dendrobium development application of 2020 and concluded “that the level of risk posed by the Project has not been properly quantified and based on the potential for long-term and irreversible impacts -- particularly on the integrity of a vital drinking water source for the Macarthur and Illawarra regions, the Wollondilly Shire and Metropolitan Sydney -- it is not in the public interest. “

See link below.

I understand that a revised scheme has been offered up as a project of State Significant Infrastructure and that the footprint of the mine has been reduced. I can see nothing in the altered proposal that is materially different to the original scheme; mining is to proceed in Dendrobium Area 5, while Area 6 waits for a future application. I suggest the water catchment supply system is vital Infrastructure in the proper sense of the word, and that a coal mine is not.

I refer interested readers back to original submissions made by others and myself to the Independent Planning Commission.

Yours sincerely,



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IPC Statement of Reasons for Decision

Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194

https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/projects/2020/10/dendrobium-extension-project-ssd-8194/determination/210205_ssd-8194-dendrobium-extension-project_statement-of-reasons.pdf

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