**Dendrobium Mine Extension - submission to IPC** 18.11.2020

I object to the Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194). I am a recently retired medical doctor living in Sydney. My principal concerns are with the deleterious effects of this proposal on the water supply of Sydney and other cities and towns; also with its contribution to global warming.

Effect on water supply: The proposal seeks nearly 30 years of destructive longwall mining in some of our most important water catchment; and this in our dry continent facing worsening drought and bushfire risk in a warming climate. What other city anywhere has longwall mining in public water catchment? I understand that this expansion will more than double water loss from mining, and that these severe losses have been modelled to last for perhaps 200 years, perhaps in perpetuity.There is a risk of damage to several dam walls, with the possibility of disaster. Water quality will be affected as subsidence and cracking allow metals like iron and arsenic to leach into streams and dams. There is further risk that cracking will drain swamps, with resulting dessication causing ecological loss, erosion, bushfire and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Fire risk to residential areas of Wollongong on and near the escarpment is especially worrisome.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: We know from all reputable authorities worldwide that new coal mines will continue to push our planet on a course to exceed one and a half degrees of global warming. Australia already has a poor record as a major GHG polluter and exporter, mostly because of the mining and burning of coal. The department’s assertion that we can avoid responsibility for the climate change caused by coal we export is morally and in practice indefensible; doesn’t pass the pub test. Once again the department seems to be proceeding hand in glove with the federal government, which remains an isolated international embarrassment for its lack of commitment to firm action against global warming. It makes us not unlike drug pushers; clearly the nations that still import and burn coal are struggling to break their addiction to this most dangerous of energy sources. We are as culpable as the criminal pushers of illegal, addictive drugs – and of course the consequences for the biosphere are far more severe.

Intergenerational equity is no small consideration. Given the very long time scales for water loss and contamination to stabilize, we are leaving to our children and to theirs a terrible legacy; for they are likely to be at even greater risk from global warming than we are.

Damage to significant indigenous sites: I understand that there are many at risk of damage in the area proposed for extension of the mine. How can we even contemplate proceeding with a project that may damage them? There is further poignancy here, as indigenous folk are excluded from these areas.

In conclusion, the IPC should reject this very dangerous expansion of an activity that is already an unacceptable risk to our precious water supply and the future of life on our planet.