Dear Commissioners

I am writing to strongly object the expansion of the Denrobium coal mine. My objection is based on two main factors - water security and economic rationality.

Australia is a dry continent, with water security a huge issue for many. The Denborium mine openly accepts that the mine will cause water to leak out of a water catchment that supplies water to 5 million people. The equivalent amounts of water that could provide 130,000 homes with water on a daily basis. As climate change tightens its grip, Australia will be in search of more ways to provide water to its inhabitants. At this time, Australians will look to moments in history that put at risk their water security, and will look very unfavourably upon those who knowingly put the future of water security at risk. It is unconscionable that we would allow business to override the basic need for water, when so many in the world suffer from lack of water security, and that Australians could find themselves in this position in the future.

The economic rationality of this project also does not stack up. Globally, the move away from coal is picking up pace. Global coal mining is declining at a rate of 14.5% (<https://www.ibisworld.com/global/industry-trends/fastest-declining-industries/>) as more countries commit to net zero emissions by 2050. Business, governments and individuals are shifting money at a rapid rate away from high emissions industries, particularly coal, in favour of low or zero emissions technologies as the reality of the climate crisis becomes more apparent. This leaves businesses such as Denrobium at risk of financial collapse before the lease expires, thus leaving any remediation or clean up process to be too financially burdensome. Bankruptcy is likely, as is being seen with Peabody, and communities will be left to clean up the mess.

It is on these two grounds that I strongly object to the proposed expansion of the Denrobium coal mine.

Regards

Anneliese Alexander