

I object to the Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194

The Coal mining industry has had ample time to ensure that mining can co-exist within catchments without any disturbance to the surface, such as cracking of creeks and in a lot of cases drying out of creeks, but up to now, no such mining is being undertaken. South 32 in other mine plans are not going under creeks and river systems, as we now know that mining is responsible for cracking up to 1 km away.

Upland swamps are the most sensitive places in a river system as these provide the lungs of the river in this case, the water catchments of Sydney. This last year we were at a crisis in supplying water to the public and had to pump it up from the Shoalhaven (taking water away from oyster farmers) to provide water for drinking.

The cracking of swamps has been going on for years, and nothing has been successful in sealing them back to their original state.

The Georges River is a good example the material that was used to seal the cracks some now 10 years ago is now failing and South 32 tell me that it is up to its use-by date. The next trial of sealant will be in the Dendrobium area that will be away from the public eyes and security, but the Georges River was cracked years ago and all we have heard is excuses about any fixing let alone how long it will last.

This alone should be enough to protect these swamps from future mining but, the DPIE still supports this project even tho it is well documented that serious damage will be caused.

Jobs always come into development whether it is for a building or a road or other developments, but this coal has only got a small amount of time life. Yet the swamps use has already been supplying the rivers with life for hundreds of years and if not mined will last hundreds of years more.

When this swamp area is cracked because of DPIE allowing this dreadful proposal, then water loss into the dam must be paid for by the mining company as part of the condition of consent. Also, there must be a time limit on the time it will take to repair the swamp back to its original flow regime.

Up to a few years ago, the coal waste was going back to the Westcliffe Emplacement Area, then the Government put a levi on the tonnage of reject coal being delivered to the Area, this levi must be increased to keep in place with inflation and a full report undertaken before permissions are given into the use by date of the Area with the extra reject that will be delivered from Dendrobium, this report must take into consideration the low grade of coal within the mine as much larger amounts of reject is produced at Dendrobium compared with the Appin mines.

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