There are so many objections to this and similar proposals to mine under our water catchment. We who live in these special areas are constantly told to conserve them and keep our drinking water pure, yet it only takes another coal baron to argue that they have special entitlement to mine under our rivers, creeks and upland swamps. Those who support the proposal do so only on economic grounds; they want secure employment but there are other ways to achieve this without mining. We need governments with initiative to develop manufacturing in rural areas. This is a rural area with arable lands able to produce food for Sydney and overseas in a sustainable manner.

To approve of any process which will affect the supply of drinking water is untenable; these are special areas for a reason and the classification was given by wiser heads than those who propose mining underneath it. This may support a few jobs for a few more years but eventually all coal mining will cease and we will be left with another damaged river, degraded creek and dried out upland swamp.

My family and I and all my colleagues and friends object to this proposal and rely on you to do the same.

Yours faithfully

Doreen and Ben Lyon