I strongly object to the proposed extension for two main reasons:

1) The project risks both contaminating and losing large volumes of Sydney's water supply. There is no way that South32 (or the decision makers in charge of approving this project) will be able to adequately compensate or remediate if this happens - the public takes on significant risk if the project goes ahead. Safe supplies of drinking water must be safeguarded - especially in the context of accelerating global warming and climate change, whereby the risk of extreme events (e.g. droughts, damage and pollution from bushfires, storms and flooding) reducing our supply of safe drinking water is increased. What will millions of Sydneysiders do if there is not enough safe drinking water to go around at some point in the near future? Cities around the world are already facing this problem due to climate change.

2) It is essential to phase out fossil fuel use as quickly as possible, in order to minimise the amount of global warming and to prevent as much harm as possible from climate change. The project should not be approved on the grounds that it is in service of operations that will cause harm to people via climate impacts. The more we delay cutting down our emissions, the more deaths and suffering will occur that can be attributed to climate change. See recent roadmap by the UK government that notes that the timing of emissions reductions really matters – for example, with a goal of net zero emissions by 2050, many more lives would be saved by say, reducing emissions by 60% in the first 10 years vs. waiting until 2040 to cut the same amount of emissions. That is to say, the scientific modelling says there is no margin left for burning coal, oil or gas without accepting a attributable death toll and poorer quality of life due to worsening the problem of global warming and climate change.