**Submission to the Independent Planning Commission - Dendrobium Extension**

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I firmly object to the proposed extension of the Dendrobium Mine.

First and foremost, my objection is based on the grounds of the existential threat of the expansion of the mine to Australia and beyond. The impacts of mining on greenhouse gas emissions are proven and we have reached a point when we must shut down, not expand, mining projects. We cannot, with any conscience to future generations - or the environment - allow developments like this to proceed.

Beyond the project’s adverse impacts on climate change through additional greenhouse gas emissions, there are other threats from the proposed project to future generations such as the loss of ground and surface water from the catchment and increased bushfire risk as a result of the drying of the catchment. Water is indeed gold. We recognise this to a degree by protecting our catchment areas from most aspects of human influence. It is unbelievable that we are failing to protect them from mining. Now must be our tipping point where we stand up for the essential ecosystem services our natural world (and we!) need to survive. There must be no more mining in water catchments.

We must create a world where the above objections are enough to stop this and similar projects. We must stand up for our environment now. As Robert Swan has said “the greatest threat to our planet is that someone else will save it”. We must act now. We must be the ones who end not just the expansion of mining, but all mining – and especially in water catchments.

Any supposed economic benefit from this project is a false economy – one that fails to account for the environmental impacts that will occur for generations. Jobs need to be generated in renewable energy, not mining. Furthermore countries whom we have traditionally exported coal to have made commitments to emission reduction which indicate that they will be removing themselves from the fossil fuel market. Coal will be a stranded asset in the future. We must decarbonise now and we have the technology to do it. We no longer need to turn to coal mining.

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