

15th December 2020

Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194)

Thank you for considering my submission. I am on maternity leave with a two-month old baby and we are toilet training our two-year-old, so this will not be a long submission.

I object to the Dendrobium mine extension project for several reasons.

Risk to Sydney Water Catchment

I live and work in Sydney. The risk to the Sydney Water catchment is not acceptable. I have read the WaterNSW submission for this project dated 6th March and am shocked that the planning process progressed past that point.

Green steel export opportunities

Reducing iron ore with metallurgical coal is emissions intensive. There are other options – using hydrogen to reduce iron ore is a fantastic example. This can be a zero emission process¹.

Progress in rolling out this new technology has been rapid. This will be in high demand as the globe decarbonises. The majority of our trading partners are announcing net zero emission targets, with Japan, the United Kingdom, Korea and others planning to reach this by 2050, and China currently planning to reach this in 2060². If we do not decarbonize we can expect to be impacted by trade restrictions etc.³.

Climate change

Australians are already being severely impacted by climate change⁴. The Black Summer of 2019/20 impacted millions of Australians, whether by fire and flames, terrible air quality, or economic loss.

Our best scientists warn that this will get much worse if we do not decarbonise⁵.

Our Pacific neighbours have been begging us not to open new coal mines for years now⁶. Instead our actions are flooding their homes.

¹ <https://grattan.edu.au/report/start-with-steel/>

² <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2020-11-22/china-s-2060-climate-pledge-inside-xi-jinping-s-secret-plan-to-end-emissions>

³ <https://www.afr.com/policy/energy-and-climate/australia-is-a-prime-target-for-green-tariffs-20200127-p53uzm>

⁴ <https://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-change-is-here-and-hurting-australians-now-20201206-p56kzl.html>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/dec/06/a-warning-on-climate-and-the-risk-of-societal-collapse>

⁶ <https://theconversation.com/pacific-pariah-how-australias-love-of-coal-has-left-it-out-in-the-diplomatic-cold-64963>

Now is not the time to be opening new coal mines.

Action to decarbonize our economy is expected to save much more than it costs⁷. Acting to remove fossil fuels from daily use is worthwhile when only factoring in improvements in public health⁸, let alone when calculating the benefit of avoiding catastrophic climate change⁹.

Transition jobs

Rather than expanding coal mines, the workers should be given real support to transition to different industries. Beyond Zero Emissions has released a plan called the *Million Jobs Plan*¹⁰, which, apart from aiming to stimulate jobs, would also create billion dollar export industries to more than replace coal and gas.

If the transition from these fossil-intensive industries is not managed, it will be chaotic and destructive. A recent example:

Already in decline, , Australia's oil and gas workforce saw a loss of over 28,000 jobs—one quarter of the country's total count—due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, according to Rystad Energy.

While some of the jobs will be restored from 2021 onwards, Australia's oil and gas workforce will struggle to recover to pre-pandemic levels for at least 5 years, if ever, Rystad said.¹¹

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any of the points raised above further.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Harvey.

⁷ <https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/news/what-are-the-full-economic-costs-to-australia-from-climate-change>

⁸ <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2020/8/12/21361498/climate-change-air-pollution-us-india-china-deaths>

⁹ <https://sustainable.unimelb.edu.au/news/what-are-the-full-economic-costs-to-australia-from-climate-change>

¹⁰ <https://millionjobs.org.au>

¹¹ <https://www.ogj.com/general-interest/economics-markets/article/14187550/rystad-covid19-downturn-cut-australias-oil-and-gas-workforce-by-onequarter>