Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194

I object to the Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194) on the following grounds:

1. **What is more important?** 
   1. The **drinking water** that supports the whole population of Sydney, Newcastle, and Wollongong, **or**
   2. The **mining of coal** to feed the steelworks at Port Kembla and for export to other countries?

**I argue,**

1. that, in a world where
   * 1. countries are working toward **net zero emissions**,
     2. the EU has just announced a further target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, and, become **climate neutral by 2050**.
     3. In the UK, the **last coal fired electricity power generator was turned off on 9th April, this year**.

**why are we supporting** the extension of a **coal mining** licence for an additional 28 years? This coal, **when burnt will release an untold amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.**

1. The DPIE cites **economic reasons**.

**Is money more important than good drinking water** for the citizens in Greater Sydney?

1. When, at some time in the future our drinking water becomes contaminated,
   1. **who is going to pay the cost of de-contamination**?
   2. Will South 32 foot the bill? They will probably go into liquidation and disappear overseas.
   3. **Will the economic cost of de-contamination be less than the economic benefit of mining the coal?**
2. **Water NSW has opposed the mining licence** saying:
3. **the proposed mining is too close to the water storage** in the Avon and Cordeaux Dams. (Water NSW **requires a setback of 300m from Full supply level**, (FSL)),
4. the proposed mining **is too close to the dam walls of both the Avon & Cordeaux Dams.** (South 32 applied for 1000m exclusion zone, Water NSW wants 1500m exclusion zone), and
5. **the estimated water loss predicted by South 32 is conservative and cites the previous history** of water loss by South 32 **as a point to note, (the predicted water take has increased 5 times in the 5 years since 2014),** and
6. It puts the **deep-water infrastructure proposed at the Cordeaux Dam in jeopardy.** This is designed to give us access to a greater amount of water during times of drought.
7. **Underground mining causes subsidence.** This is a known fact as we have The Mine Subsidence Compensation Act 1991 that is designed to compensate anyone who suffers loss on the surface due to underground mining activities. **Subsidence causes cracking of the land on the surface.**
8. **The Dendrobium Mine is excavating coal under** land that forms part of **the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Area**, from which we get our drinking water. There are many streams, creeks, water courses and swamps in this catchment, all of which could be damaged by continued mining activity.
9. I have been fortunate enough to view a **presentation by Dr Ian Wright of the University of Western Sydney**. In the presentation he shows photos of the **Redback Creek** (near Picton) that **has stopped flowing due to what he calls ‘upsidence’**, (the upward movement of the stream bed in relation to the surrounding land), caused by mining below the surface. This resulted in:
   1. **Ceasing of the flow of water in this watercourse** **into** the dams making up The Greater Sydney Basin Water Supply (**our drinking water supply**),
   2. **Diversion of this water into the cavernous void created by the mining activity** beneath the dry watercourse, (refer also to point 4 below) and
   3. **the upwelling of mine water through cracks that appear in the creek bedrock. This water contains contaminants** (refer also to point 4 below) **which has destroyed the ecology in any water that remained in ponds on the surface.** The only living thing here, is the mosquito, because it can breathe oxygen from the air above the contaminated water. All other invertebrate life has been destroyed **due to the lack of oxygen in the water and the presence of life killing contaminants**.
10. I am concerned on two accounts by the occurrence described in 5 above:
    1. **Reduction in volume of the flow of water into our drinking water reservoirs.**
11. The mining under Redback Creek caused upsidence and stopped the normal rate of flow of good clean water from this creek, into the rivers and dams that make up the Greater Sydney Water Supply.
12. If you allow another 28 years of mining under our water catchment how many more watercourses will be damaged, causing the flow of water into the dams to stop or be seriously reduced, and thereby seriously reducing the drinking water in our dams?
13. How many times will you let this happen before you stop mining under the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Area?
14. Will you even be aware that it is happening?
    1. Will you employ an independent auditor to measure & report on ground subsidence and changes in flows in watercourses & swamps?