Below is our submission into the **Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194**

We are opposed to this project on the following grounds, including:

1. *Mining induced subsidence will damage the watercourses and swamps that feed our drinking water reservoirs*
2. *Millions of litres of water will be lost*
3. *Government agencies outside Planning are concerned*
4. *Damage to WaterNSW infrastructure*
5. *Water quality*
6. *Damage to Upland Swamps*
7. *Bushfire risk*
8. *A legacy of water loss and contamination for future generations*
9. *Damage to valuable Aboriginal Cultural Heritage*
10. *Locking in 28 years of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, instead of decarbonising*
11. *NSW Government locking in 28 years of destructive coal mining is irresponsible economic planning*
12. *No alternative is provided to this shockingly destructive expansion which will cause permanent damage to our water catchment*

These mine extensions will result in damage and loss of water to swamps, water courses and the Avon, Cordeaux and Nepean Reservoirs.  It is totally unacceptable to mine under Sydney’s water catchment. (Sydney is the only city in the world that allows longwall mining in a publicly owned water catchment.) The risks are too great. We should not be putting our water supply in such obvious peril.

The proposed mine extension is far too close to the Cordeaux and Avon Dam coming as close as 300 metres. Any other infrastructure project must be set back at least 1000 metres.

Dendrobium’s average daily water loss for the duration of the expansion project will be 22 million litres (ML).  It has been estimated that water loss will peak around 2032 to 2036 at 26ML per day. This is equivalent to the daily water usage of 130,000 people! This is madness in a country particularly susceptible to climate change.

To make matters worse at the end of the life of the mine in around 2048, it may not be possible to seal it off. We do not know if it can be rehabilitated and we may continue to lose water.

We are also concerned about contaminated surface water entering our creeks within our catchment. The existing water discharge into Allans Creek, (already having been identified as exceeding safe levels of heavy metals,) is predicted to double.

The upland swamps of the Woronora Plateau would be subject to cracking if the mine extensions are approved. It is outrageous that these Endangered Ecological Communities should be put at risk. They play an essential role in capturing and holding water, filtering it and in times of drought releasing it slowly into the creeks and rivers that feed into the reservoirs. We do not want to see them be damaged by cracks and fissures and subsidence which they inevitably would. The dehydration of the land would also add to the bushfire risk.

Finally, we do not believe the NSW Government should be locking in 28 years of destructive coal mining at a time when we should be reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Please adopt the public interest, the precautionary principle and intergenerational equity into your decisions. Global warming, due to anthropogenic climate change, is now well documented. If we keep on releasing GHG into the atmosphere we could well be heading toward tipping points in the climate system. According to the World Economic Forum, this could trigger a cascade of irreversible changes.

Once we ruin these pristine areas with their ecosystems, they will never recover and we will be moved closer to the catastrophic effects of run-away climate change.

Yours sincerely,

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