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Subject: Rixs Creek Continuation Project (SSD 6300)- Objection
Date: Tuesday, 12 June 2018 4:42:03 PM

Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 200

Subject: Rixs Creek Continuation Project (SSD6300)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to lodge an objection concerning the above project on the basis of two points.

1. The potential for contaminated water runoff from the proposed Western Spoil Emplacement area ending up in Deadmans Creek and adversely affecting downstream rural property viability.
2. The reduced area of the Deadmans Creek water shed with subsequent less flow being available along the creek to supply downstream property needs.

Contaminated runoff.

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I have over the years repeatedly stated that it is essential for the flow of water along the creek be at a quality suitable for stock consumption and be available for maintenance of a healthy pasture right through the length of the creek to the Hunter.

I have observed that every so often there are extreme rain events when there is a very heavy fall of rain over a short period resulting in a great deal of runoff rapidly filling all dams with overflow eventually flooding Deadmans Creek.

Such events could be expected to increase the runoff from planned emplacement areas and for volume to be greater than capacity of proposed mine sediment dams. The resultant flow to the creek would be very muddy and contaminated with leached minerals from mine workings. My point is backed up by current sediment dams overflowing during the past two years at a time of mild rain storms.

Reduction of Deadmans Creek water shed area.

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As stated above the flow through Deadmans Creek even if intermittent is vital downstream users.

When Rixs Creek North Pit opened up north of the New England Highway a large area was diverted away from Deadmans Creek.

A further reduction occurred with the current open cut operation on the South side of New England Highway .

And yet a further decrease will result with the Continuation Project.

The additional reduction will take place in two parts.

1. When open cut moves in a northward direction on the western watershed.

2. Over the years during construction of the very large mine emplacement in a westward direction.

All these reductions in water shed area will result in very much less water flowing to replenish downstream water holes. This is detrimental to property management in that more pressure is put on water reserves in dams and thus increases the overall concerns during dry times.

Regards

Alistair Bowman

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