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**Subject:** Submission to IPC - Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194  
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## Submission to IPC - Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194

I oppose the Dendrobium Extension Project for a number of very important reasons:

**1. While we will always need clean drinking water, we do not need this extra coal.**

**2. The demand for coking coal will steadily decline** over the next 10+ years due to the move to new green steel making technology in all recipient countries. Port Kembla has already been identified as an ideal place to establish a hydrogen-steel pilot project. In the transition period there is an adequate supply of coking coal from outside the Sydney Water Catchment e.g. from Queensland, and Appin and Tahmoor mines, and without any expansion of any mines. What will be needed is a zero-carbon industry transition plan.

**3. The impact of runaway climate change must be taken very seriously.** It means rapidly rising temperatures, reduced annual rainfall, increased drying of the surface vegetation and likelihood of ongoing catastrophic bushfires. The mining of fossil fuels must be phased out if the planet is to reach the Paris atmospheric carbon reduction targets.

**4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)** must be a major consideration in the approval process for this mine expansion. The greatest threat to our climate comes in the form of SCOPE 3 emissions, which will be so much greater than SCOPE 1 & 2. Should the IPC consider approving this mine expansion request, I ask that South 32 be required to offset all SCOPE 1, 2 & 3 emissions before expansion starts. The Mining SEPP requires South 32 to consider SCOPE 3 emissions (and presumably to offset them).

**5. There is a long history of coal mining, both bord and pillar and longwall, damaging the water catchment,** and generally at higher levels than predicted. The current longwall mining conducted by South 32 at Dendrobium has resulted in extensive subsidence, creating on average 40 cm cracks and fissures extending from the mine level to the surface. Water is diverted from reservoirs, streams and swamps into the mine. This damage results in loss of water, pollution of water with toxic heavy metals, and damage to the ecosystems of the streams and Coastal Upland Swamps (the destruction of which also destroys any carbon sequestration service provided and makes the area more fire prone). The Dendrobium expansion into Areas 5 & 6 would come very close to both Avon and Cordeaux Dams. Subsidence of 2.0-2.5m and damage to the reservoirs is expected. The DPIE is also predicting considerable damage to the Upland Swamps.

**6. Aboriginal Heritage must be respected.** South 32 only surveyed 6.9% of the affected area and, even that small area, revealed 58 significant sites up to 4000 years old, which deserve careful protection. South 32 has made a lukewarm promise to protect identified sites "as far as practicable". The IPC must take into account the long history of the impact of coal mining on Aboriginal sites in the area. In the 1980s the 4000 year old Whale Cave site was irrevocably damaged by cracking caused by bord and pillar mining at the Nebo Mine. Given the reaction to the destruction of Juukan Gorge in WA, clearly the time has come for Aboriginal heritage and their sites to be

respected by mining companies. The wider community now recognizes just what these losses mean to the Aboriginal people and that these are losses to us all.

**7. Mining companies must be held accountable** for the management of on-going damage to the water catchment, which includes water loss and contamination. They must also be required to avoid creating stranded assets, with the resulting cost to their shareholders and the community.

**In conclusion I ask the IPC to reject this request from South 32 for any expansion of the Dendrobium Coal Mine.**

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