

OBJECTION - Please accept the following as my submission and thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns

The Dendrobium Mining Project operated by South 32 affects the drinking water catchments of the Avon and Cordeaux Dams. These dams are the water supply for Wollongong and the Macarthur region of Southwest Sydney. This is the area that one million more people are to be housed via the Greater Macarthur Growth Area.

The Avon and Cordeaux dams supplement supply via the upper canal link to Prospect Reservoir to the rest of metropolitan Sydney. This was vital when the bushfires of 2020 affected the Warragamba Dam catchment, and fouled the dam with debris, ash and algae.

Water security should be guarded with utmost priority. No other city in the world allows mining under its water catchment.

The South 32 expansion should be firmly rejected by the panel on the basis

- Surface subsidence of more than 2 metres will cause cracks in bedrock as much as 400mm wide, and with fractures that connect from the surface to the mine hundreds of metres below. expected to add the loss of many more millions of litres of water each day to the 10 million litres daily water loss from Dendrobium's current and past mining. Dendrobium's average daily water loss for the expansion project is estimated to be 22million litres.
- It will undermine 25 upland swamps, an uncounted number of streams, come to within 300 metres of the edges of the Avon and Cordeaux dams, and to within 1000m of the dam walls, which Water NSW claims is too close
- The Department Primary Industry and Resources must consider alternatives, including but not limited to limiting mine widths to lessen subsidence, continuing to mine Bulli Seam coal nearby but outside the

drinking water catchment, (so eliminating the need to mine Area 5 of the Dendrobium area) and changing the Blue Scope blast furnace coal blend, so that the Wongawilli coal from Area 6 of the Dendrobium area is not required.

- The DPIE economic case for the project is based on a consultant's report (BAEconomics) that says of its own methodology; it "rang key stakeholders "on 25/3/20, but could do no "face to face meetings" because of the "Covid 19 crisis", and further, "some of the affected companies have only been prepared to provide limited data."
- Water NSW has firmly rejected the expansion and given they are the primary stakeholders, their expert scientific evidence should be accepted unconditionally
- The handful of jobs this mine expansion would create is not worth risking the drinking water for millions of people