

## Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194

My name is Cherrida Hardaker, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, who lives in the Illawarra and I **strongly object** to the Dendrobium Extension Project SSD 8194 for so many reasons.

This mine would extend operations into 'Special Areas' of the water catchment using long wall mining. This is a special area that we are not allowed to walk in, but they are wanting to put our drinking water at risk, the drinking water for up to 5 million people.

When has any fossil fuel ever been more important than drinking water in the driest, inhabited country in the world? A country where there are towns that have run out of water.

I have become so disillusioned with the whole IPC process. After listening to 7 days of people giving such important reasons why the Santos project in the Pilliga should not go ahead and so many making written submissions, I thought that there is no way that this project could go ahead. But once again water, the environment and people's health is not a priority when it comes to fossil fuels.

I also believe that 2 of the commissioners from that review are also on the Dendrobium IPC. That does not bode well.

I then spoke at and wrote a submission about the Russell Vale expansion and was horrified to learn that this project has also been given permission to go ahead regardless of so many reasons that it should never have been considered. This company has a disastrous record and yet that is not considered.

Once again, I ask when are fossil fuels ever more important than drinking water, the environment, people's health, and cultural heritage?

I was under the impression that the IPC was the opportunity for the community to be heard and what they had to say to be considered – obviously, this is not the situation.

The IPC gives us, the community, the impression that it is just a rubber stamp for the fossil fuel industry and the present government.

The other consideration that does not seem to be taken seriously is that coal is fast becoming an outdated fuel around the world and yet you are prepared to risk the drinking water, health, environment, and the climate for this rapidly becoming unnecessary fuel.

One of the things that these mining companies talk about is offsetting damaged upland swamps. How do you replace a swamp that is needed in one place from somewhere else (where it would be needed anyway)? You cannot offset something like this.

I believe that the IPC commissioners were taken on a walk to look at such things as swamps, but they were only taken to an area where no damage had been done and the area where it is known that damage has occurred was not available for them to look at??? Why not? These swamps are such an important part of the whole water system and cannot be repaired, replaced, or offset.

Long wall mining is so destructive. We have all seen the results of this type of mining on both the environment and to cultural heritage. When are the people responsible for this destruction going to wake up and take responsibility?

You must have seen photographic evidence as I have of the terrible subsidence, cracking and dewatering of watercourses, swamps and aquifers which can never be repaired. This damage

causes the loss of millions of litres of water daily and yet it is being considered to allow further mining in such important areas.

You have heard from many experts about the damage that has already been caused and the possibility of further damage. Who is prepared to take the chance of still further damage when there is already enough coal available for the Steel Works to be supplied for the next 10 years?

One especially important consideration is the damage or loss of valuable Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. There are a number of these sites that will not be protected if this mine extension goes ahead. Like Rio Tinto you and the mining company can not say that you were unaware of these sites. I wonder if you will also be held responsible if and when sites become damaged because Australians are becoming so much more aware of the great importance of this cultural heritage.

Regarding climate change and the impacts that this mine extension will have on it, it is extremely hard to know where to start. Only someone who never reads a newspaper, watches the news, watches a documentary on this subject or does not live in the real world could say that they are unaware of the impacts that fossil fuel mining and its use has on the environment.

You would have received many submissions from experts that are much more experienced and informative than mine is. I can only hope that you will give them the consideration they deserve.

In conclusion, this expansion **should not go ahead** when the most important things such as drinking water, peoples health, the environment and climate change are taken into consideration. There should be no mining in the Special Areas of Greater Sydney Water Catchment and should be rejected.

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