

**From:** [Scott Melhuish](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 15 December 2020 6:49:44 PM

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Dear Sirs

## Objection to Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194)

I wish to object to the Dendrobium Extension Project (SSD 8194) for the following reasons:

### 1) Millions of litres of water will be lost

We have recently experienced terrible drought, when high level water restrictions prevented many of us from following our normal way of life. Any mining in this area has the potential to cause significant water loss to an already precious resource. This is unacceptable & foolhardy.

### 2) Subsidence induced by mining will damage the creeks, streams & waterways that form the catchment area of our drinking water supply

All three affected reservoirs, Avon, Cordeaux and Nepean supply water to Sydney, and this is totally unacceptable. We are not allowed to do something as low impact as to walk within the exclusion zone around Lake Burragorang, but mining is a high impact activity, and should not be allowed under any circumstances.

### 3) Government agencies such as the NSW Government's Independent Advisory Panel for Underground Mining, as well as Water NSW have questioned the wisdom of this kind of project

### 4) Water quality

Fracturing of water courses from mining can cause minerals to dissolve and move into ground water. WaterNSW has stated, "WaterNSW is concerned that any increase in arsenic (or other heavy metals) may have a negative effect on water quality and aquatic ecology.

### 5) Damage to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

The media has revealed a history of damage to Aboriginal Heritage sites at Dendrobium through mining.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has stated about Aboriginal heritage sites: "The five remaining sites are all located centrally above longwall panels. Given the limited risks of impacts, the Department does not consider that the scientific or cultural benefit of avoiding the risk of impacts is warranted." I find this to be extremely offensive, especially in the light of the destruction of Indigenous heritage in Western Australia by Rio Tinto, and the outrage that was expressed about the cavalier attitude towards the destruction of our First Nation's cultural heritage. This area is legally out of bounds for the Indigenous Aboriginal Community, and now the Department says that "the cultural benefit of avoiding the risk of impacts is (not) warranted." The explosion of debate over this issue with Rio Tinto will be repeated if the Department decides to proceed with this project. I would predict that anyone in the Department

who is involved in the decision making project will be publicly derided, if this proceeds in the current context of public outrage over destruction of indigenous cultural sites.

6) Coal based projects should be consigned to ancient history

Why start new coal mining projects when we already know that renewables are cheaper and less damaging than coal?

Each year, the CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) work with a range of industry stakeholders to give an updated estimate of the cost to generate electricity for new power plants in Australia, through their GenCost report:

<https://www.csiro.au/en/News/News-releases/2020/Renewables-still-the-cheapest-new-build-power-in-Australia>

CSIRO Chief Energy Economist Paul Graham stated about this year's report:

"Previous GenCost reports added arbitrary amounts of storage costs, but this year we used a model of the electricity system that optimises the amount of storage needed, and also includes additional transmission expenditure."

"Even taking into account these extra system integration costs, solar photovoltaics (PV) and wind continue to be the cheapest new sources of electricity for any expected share of renewables in the grid — anywhere from 50 per cent to 100 per cent."

"This is projected to continue to be the case throughout the projection period to 2050."

The CSIRO is not a green-based pressure group, but is our premier Scientific Research department, and they are stating that even when accounting for the cost of transmission & storage of renewable energy, solar and wind based electricity is still cheaper than other forms of electricity generation.

It is a waste of money & a waste of our environment to proceed with coal based electricity generation, and many of our foreign export markets are now stating that they will stop importing coal. Why begin new coal mining projects when coal is about to be consigned to the pages of history. This is like building a new fleet of dirty diesel buses when we have the technology to run clean electric powered buses, at a cheaper cost.

I would conclude by stating that this expansion project is a doomed project, and should be immediately abandoned.

Your sincerely

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