

12TH February 2021

P.1.

BARGO NSW 2574

Please

<Ring if u need Answer>

Comm. R. MACKAY - <Panel Chair>

I.P.C of New South Wales

Subject: Public Hearing (resident 1980-2021 Ago TI)

Reference: TAHMOOR SOUTH COAL PROJECT (SSD 8445)

Dear Sir,

For two (2) years I have written to our LOCAL STATE MEMBER highlighting Bargo as a "NO-GO" ZONE for mining because of the negative effect it will have on the water supply to "Nepean and Avon" DAMS which are feeders to SYDNEY'S Water Supply and which at times even support the Warragambadam.

I attach page 10 "Wollondilly Advertiser 10/2/2021" Article 'Loss of Water Deemed TOO GREAT!!!' This article states the IPC has REFUSED the South 32 mine.

With this CURRENT PRECEDENT established by the IPC itself it is EVIDENT that the Mine under SSD 8445 must be seriously considered as a major THREAT to SYDNEY'S water supply as the ZONE requested for future Mining lies within 3 KILOMETRES of Nepean Dam.

This area is so "AQUIFER-SENSITIVE" that a planned Sewerage Water Treatment for Bargo was CANCELLED in 2014 by the SYDNEY WATER GROUP at request of residents. This group has been active in the refusal of the South 32 Mines. Please contact them for help.



<SEE BACK>

Mining and Water are not COMPATIBLE.
 The current findings on South 32 agree. We are talking of the EFFECT on MILLIONS not simply BARGO!
 Be very CAREFUL on checking this ISSUE. It would not surprise me to learn that the ZONE requested to be mined has had its Water Catchment Category altered within recent days.

Any recent changes to the description of this ZONE'S ability to Capture "Water" for the Nepean Dam can not be a Positive for SIMEC MINES as SYDNEY WATER itself would not alter the ENVIRONMENT in this same ZONE by installing a "SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT." (2014)
 The mines capacity to alter Water flow is unknown?
 The Bargo Aquifers are so sensitive that any Resident operating a septic Sewerage Tank must pay freight to have the WASTE Transported out of the Shire. This has been in practice for at least 20 years. This supports the Sensitivity of Aquifers here.

The need to protect Nepean / Acon Dams is currently evident with the State Government's gesturing of RAISING the Warragamba Dam Walls, which indicates that the NEED for FUTURE WATER RESOURCES IS A V. I. P. issue for the 4 MILLION AND GROWING RESIDENTS OF THE GREATER SYDNEY AREA. I would also note that OWNERSHIP of Tahmoor Mines has changed four (4) times in recent years.
 "WHO will own this Mine in 2030? CROWN?? (TRUST ISSUE)
 Yours Faithfully, Peter BROWN. 120221

Extension bid refused

Loss of water deemed too great

MINING

BY JESS LAYT

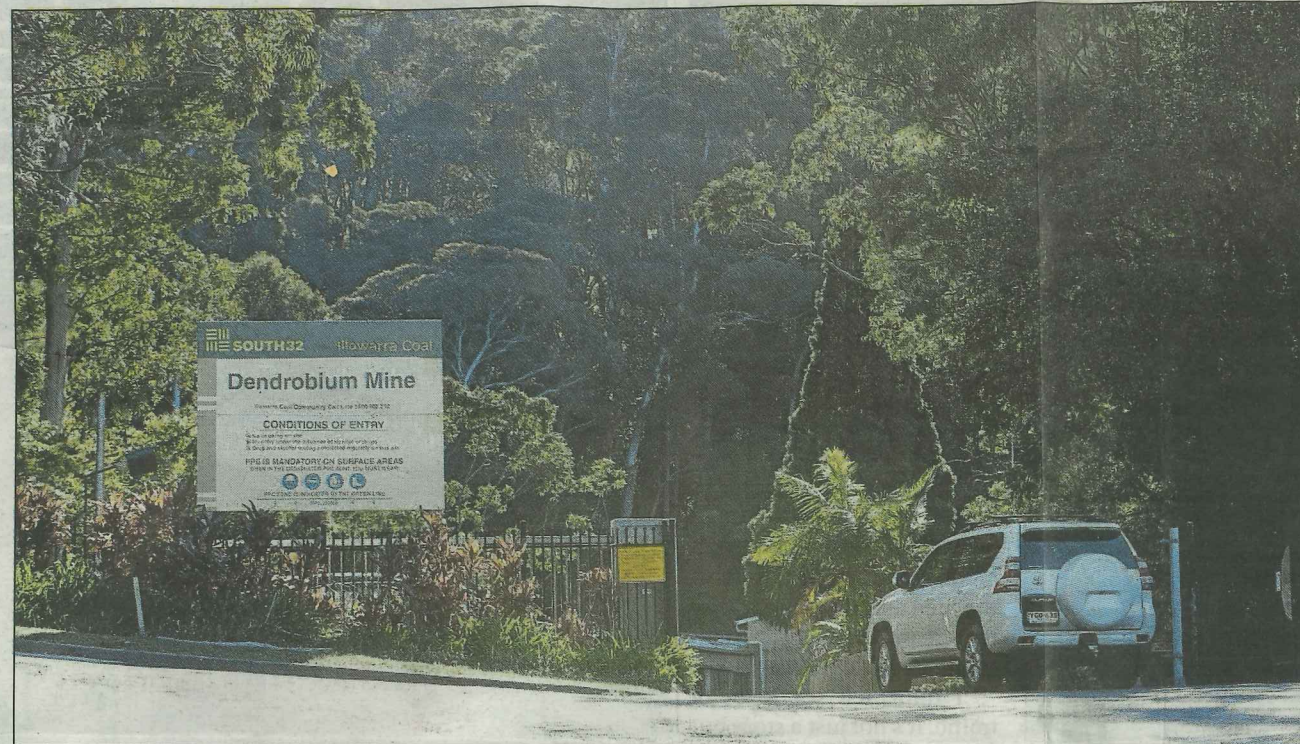
PLANS to expand the Dendrobium metallurgical coal mine were knocked back in a decision by the Independent Planning Commission on Friday.

The South32 mine had proposed to extend areas five and six of their mining operations in Macarthur, which neighbour Cord-eaux Dam.

The IPC found the 'adverse impacts on the environment [were] high and that those impacts [were] not appropriately manageable and [were] likely to be irreversible'.

"After careful examination of all the evidence and weighing all relevant considerations, the commission has found that the longwall mine design put forward by South32 does not achieve a balance between maximising the recovery of a coal resource of state significance and managing, minimising or mitigating the impacts on the water resources and biodiversity and other environmental values of the Metropolitan Special Area," the Commission's Statement of Reasons for Decision reads.

"The level of risk posed by the project has not been properly quantified and based on the potential for long-term and irreversible impacts - particularly on the integrity of a vital drinking



KNOCKED BACK: South32's Dendrobium mine has not been granted extension approval to mine under areas of Macarthur.

water source for the Macarthur and Illawarra regions, the Wollondilly Shire and Metropolitan Sydney - it is not in the public interest."

Georges River Environmental Alliance secretary Sharyn Cullis - who had been a vocal opponent of the expansion plans - said she was thrilled with the determination.

"The result is what I would have hoped," she said.

"It's a victory of drinking water over coal.

"I thought it was outstanding in the IPC's last recommendation, where they say the proposal was not in public interest.

"They clearly thought more of the public interest than about royalties. They say the water security risk was too great and the uncertain consequences too significant.

"On the balance, when they considered the social, environmental and economic factors they determined

the extension not in the public interest. They're saying our drinking water is more important than coal."

Wollondilly councillor Matt Deeth said mining jobs were "crucial" in Wollondilly, but water supply was also of vital importance.

"Mining is important to Wollondilly, mining jobs in particular," he said.

"I'm keen to understand what the implications of this are.

"The challenge, which the IPC saw, is that there were issues with this proposal, and now it's time to go back to the drawing board and assess how to resolve the issues that were raised.

"At the end of the day, drinking water supply for Wollondilly and the wider Macarthur region is vital and we need to ensure that any proposal which may impact the water supply is given the utmost scrutiny.

"Once that water supply is impacted, you can't undo it."

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It's a victory of drinking water over coal.

Sharyn Cullis, Georges River Environmental Alliance secretary

Cr Deeth said it was necessary to ensure the long-term future of coking coal mining in the area as it was important to the steel-making process, while still managing and balancing the risk to the water supply.

"I'm glad to see that South32 will have a future with other mines in Appin and plans to expand underneath areas north of Douglas Park, and looking into the feasibility of mining under Razorback."

South32 chief executive Jason Economidis said the company was "disappointed" with the refusal.

"We have a long history of operating safely and respon-

sibly in the Illawarra region, creating jobs, investment and opportunities within the community," he said.

"We believe it's in the public interest for the project to proceed, preserving local jobs in the region.

"The NSW government had already deemed this project approvable, taking the view that the project had been designed in a manner that achieved a good balance between maximising the recovery of coal and minimising the impacts on water resources, biodiversity and other environmental values of the Metropolitan Special Area.

"The department's own

experts said there was no easy way to improve the avoidance and mitigation measures we had put forward.

"This process creates uncertainty for companies considering large investments in NSW.

"We will now consider our options as we review the report in detail."

A South32 spokesman said the extension project "would not mine beneath dams, named watercourses or key stream features and has been designed to have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality within water catchment areas".

However, Ms Cullis felt very differently and said the company's offer to offset future water losses with \$103 million was far from adequate.

She said the potential water losses could be felt for more than 150 years, and no monetary value could possibly offset the potentially "catastrophic" environmental and social impacts.

The IPC findings noted South32 "was aware of concerns raised by WaterNSW and others regarding its mine design and the associated impacts".

"The applicant has made minor amendments; however, the impacts remain significant," the findings stated.

"The commission notes the applicant has offered mitigation measures for remediation of selected key stream features, financial offsets for water losses and water quality impacts and an upland swamp offset site. However, a number of these measures have not been considered acceptable by the responsible statutory agencies."

Read more of the IPC's major findings online.