

Submission to IEPMC (personal details redacted)

Submission in response to the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment Initial Report, Nov. 2018

I write to express my grave concern re coal mining in the Sydney Water Catchment. There is clear evidence that mining is damaging our vital catchment, and water security for Sydney and the Illawarra into the future.

Coal mining under the catchment has already caused significant damage to the integrity of the area as a water supply and storage area for Sydney Water. At the moment it appears there is no way to repair this damage and rehabilitate the areas affected.

This is one case in which the Precautionary Principle **MUST** be applied. There can be **NO MINING** in the water catchment. It is too late to talk about the expansion of mining, in one, two, or any number of mines, or to debate formulae about water losses and subsidence.

There has to be a reason that every other publicly owned drinking water catchment in the world bans coal mining (as stated by the NSW Chief Scientist). It's time for Sydney to catch up, given the obvious fact that our survival is dependent on a reliable water supply.

Without exaggerating, the damage already done by mining in the Sydney catchment is catastrophic .

All mining under the catchment now has to be phased out, and phased out as quickly as possible.

I ask you to recommend a ban on all mining in the Special Areas and in the greater water catchment.

Thanking you for this opportunity to respond.

Anne Marett