

Submission to IEPMC (personal details redacted)

Dear Panel members,

Coal mining in catchment area is a critical issue for the health and well-being of the populations that rely on the catchment for daily living. We are entering a time of unprecedented severity in hydrological conditions and it is not a time to be risking basic environmental health infrastructure of highly populated areas, especially in the most reliable areas of the catchment.

Long wall mining is damaging a critical environmental and health infrastructure relied upon by the people of Sydney and Wollongong. And when damage becomes certain, even if the magnitude of harm is not precisely known, it would become negligence to continue to allow the damage to continue and causing a loss of capacity to supply a basic need to the population. It is no longer precautionary, but duty of care.

Protection of the catchment is very similar to how the Preston decision highlights the degree of negligence to open a new coal mine at a time of climate change urgency. There are water shortages and severe scarcities everywhere around the world, including just a few hundred kilometres west of Sydney. NSW has experienced example after example of bad management causing devastating losses that were predicted. Duty of care is a serious matter, and climate change and predictions should not be ignored. It is negligence not to listen.

I do not think there should be any coal mining in the catchment area. I would like to see the terms of reference discussing how to protect our water resource, rather than be stuck on semantics about how much water is lost and how irreversible damage is documented.

Many thanks

Winnie Fu