

Submission to IEPMC (personal details redacted)

Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment,
NSW Chief Scientist,
Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to express my concern about further mining damage to the Sydney's Water Catchment Area. Particularly at this point in time we are experiencing the effects of prolonged drought and our water catchment is more valuable than any other resource as all life depends on water for survival.

Living in the Wollongong region for nearly 40 years I have been informed at times through the press and by concerned residents of the cracks/fissures in the creek beds as a result of long wall mining. I also understand that this damage which has been going on for a long time is permanent and can't be repaired. Through these cracks the water which is supposed to contribute to our water catchment is lost permanently. As I understand from the NSW's Chief Scientist's report our water catchment is the only publicly owned drinking water catchment in the world where coal mining is allowed.

As new coal mining projects and extensions are approved by the NSW government. This occurs despite an apparent lack of understanding of the impacts and cumulative effects of mining in the water catchment. This is unsustainable and also truly amazing given the hard evidence of the progressive destruction of the creek beds by mining.

I value the greater Sydney Water Catchment over the mining of coal. Climate change is impacting on all of us and we require water over coal for our survival. There should be no coal mining in the Sydney Water Catchment Area.

I recommend a ban on all mining in the Special areas and in the greater water catchment.

Yours Sincerely,
Dr Deborah Trunckova