

Submission to IEPMC (personal details redacted)

The Chief Scientist and Engineer, NSW

Re Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment
Initial report on specific mining activities at the Metropolitan and Dendrobium coal mines

Having had a quick look at the report, I am concerned to find that it estimates the current average daily water loss of over 7.5 ML per day into Dendrobium mine and 0.5 ML per day into Metropolitan mine.

I am also concerned that it does not appear to address potential risks that may arise from mining under stored waters in the event of an earthquake. It may be said that the Illawarra is an area of low seismic risk, but earthquakes can occur at unexpected places, as was the case in Christchurch New Zealand in 2010 and 2011. (or even Newcastle in 1989). The combination of an earthquake and mining under stored waters could be severe.

I am also concerned if a situation could develop where a large quantity of water from a dam situated at some height could discharge through a mine to flood areas at a mine entrance.

One could perhaps argue that prohibitions on mining under stored waters were too severe up to the 1970s. But perhaps now these prohibitions should be reinstated given climate change, Sydney's rapidly growing population, and the need to not only construct a desalination but recently recommission its use.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Laird