

## Submission to IEPMC (personal details redacted)

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I thank for the opportunity to write a submission to this panel.

Over the last 8 years I have become increasingly skeptical about the planning process and the terms of reference for writing submissions regarding coal mining in our water catchment.

When I first started investigating there was already considerable evidence from the 'Dept of Environment and heritage' that long wall mining was likely to have considerable risk of damaging upland swamps. Mines were still approved.

Several years later another report from the govt. dept of environment made it even clearer that damage to upland swamps from long wall mining was almost certain. We'd already lost world heritage Thirlmere lakes. Still the Springvale mine extension was approved by the PAC, because the company's own environmental statement said there would be 'minimal or negligible' to the swamps, with no justification for this assumption. PAC clearly didn't agree with this assumption and ordered considerable monitoring in place to measure the damage. The monitoring proved beyond all doubt, that the mining was damaging and draining nationally significant upland swamps. But measuring how dead they were did not save them. Most were destroyed before the company was required to make any change. PAC should have taken a stronger stand and denied approval.

The planning dept. had the nerve to say that the damage was no more than they were expecting (i.e. they knew there would be more than minimal or negligible damage, but approval was given on that premise.

(The swamps damaged fed the world heritage Blue Mountains creek and river system. The drying and death of so many swamps means the rivers in the area will run dry more often, increasing bush-fire risk, changing the ecology, at a time when drought and heat are likely to increase.

The damage can't be reversed, it's there for ever; just because PAC and the planning dept. decided to give the mining company benefit of the doubt, or more correctly, allowed them to get away with their lies.

This is happening again. There is no safe level for mining in our water catchment. Too much damage has already been done. Too many swamps and creeks destroyed. Too much water being lost from our water storage, too much pollution entering our drinking water supply. There is still leakage of toxic pollutants into the water catchment from mines no longer being used. With so many mines already operating, this damage will go on for years.

Our water here is very precious and we should not be putting it at risk in the manner we are. Risking the water for 5 million people just doesn't make sense. One more report, sounds like just another delaying tactic. Make this report count. The financial community got away with dreadful practices for years because their governing body did not hold them to account. This is happening with our water catchment. The mining companies get away with poor practices and inadequate Environmental Impact Studies, because no-one is holding them to account. The government knows the dangers (it promised there would be no more mining in water catchments if they were elected in 2011)

My strongly held view is that there should be no more mining in our water catchment,

Thank you

Peggy Fisher