

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

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The Hon. Barry O'Farrell MP  
Premier of NSW  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

The Department of Trade and Investment (Minerals) has allowed significant damage to essential water supplies and should no longer be trusted. Would you please ensure that this Department is no longer the sole regulator of mining in water supply areas. The water supply of millions of people must be secured by protecting streams and swamps in our water supply catchments from coal mining damage.

The Metropolitan Water Catchments west of the Illawarra Escarpment supply all of Wollongong's water and 20% of Sydney's needs. In recent years intensive longwall coal mining has begun to seriously damage these areas. As the underground coal mining has intensified, the surface damage to our catchments has increased. Undermined creeks are no longer capable of holding water, reducing the effectiveness of the catchment. The Dendrobium and Metropolitan mines plan to increase intensive operations that will significantly damage important swamps and other essential elements of our catchments, if they proceed as proposed.

Mining has caused surface subsidence that has cracked sandstone riverbeds, draining of rock pools and eroded swamps and opened crevasses in hillsides.

The Metropolitan Catchments must retain their ecological integrity if they are to provide a sustainable clean drinking water supply (particularly in drought times) to Sydney and Wollongong. Stream bed repairs proposed by the miners and the Department of Industry and Investment (using cement grouting, sand or cotton trash and mulch) have not been successful. Effective protection measures to prevent damage are needed, coal mining intensity reduced and the regulatory environment for mining in sensitive areas must be vastly improved.

Yours sincerely,

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