



Sutherland Shire

Environment Centre Inc.

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Media Release

NEW APPROVAL FOR OUT-DATED INDUSTRY

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre today expressed disappointment that the Metropolitan Colliery longwall mining proposal has been given the go-ahead. However, they applauded Minister Keneally's decision to protect undamaged areas of the Waratah Rivulet and its eastern tributary from further mining damage.

The Centre also welcomed the condition requiring remediation of the Waratah Rivulet between Flat Rock Swamp and the Woronora Reservoir (including its eastern tributary) to restore surface flows and pool holding capacity.

"It is important to recognise, however, that there is still no proven method of remediation available to Metropolitan Colliery. Until such a method exists, any approval for coal mining based on the assumption that damaged areas can be repaired is premature." said SSEC Development Officer, Graeme Booth.

"The consent does contain valuable management and reporting systems that should now be applied to all future mining applications. This shows a different, more conservative approach has been taken by the minister. We hope that over the 20 year life of this mining approval, the analysis of the data collected will help to minimise the environmental damage we believe to be an inevitable consequence of the mining operation."

Natural areas campaigner, David Burgess, who has been working closely with Sutherland Shire Environment Centre on the campaign to ensure protection of the Woronora Reservoir Catchment Area said, "The new layout does send a strong message to mining companies that they cannot expect to get away with the dodgy environmental assessment and damage that has occurred in the past."

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre expressed concern that new mining licences are being granted at a time when the environment is threatened by the burning of fossil fuels, particularly when rigorous targets for reducing emissions need to be set. Granting of these 20 year licences makes the task of setting and achieving any meaningful emissions targets much more difficult.

Sutherland Shire Environment Centre would prefer to see a future using clean renewable energy sources.