

“ARE YOU AWARE...

“That at the same time as we have a premier proposing to go ahead with a multi-million dollar scheme to build a desalinisation plant to “ensure” Sydney’s water supply, governments have allowed multi-national coal mining practices that are creating cracks and leaks in all sorts of areas.

“Once, when it rained, water flowed along creeks, streams and rivers into the dams. Now it runs down cracks and one way and another does not reach the dams.

“To me it seems poor logic to say we have to keep getting the money for the coal so we can WHAT? – Pay out the billions needed to ensure we can build environmental hazardous solutions to our water shortages?

“You can’t eat, drink or breath money. Money for a multi-national mining industry I am led to believe.”

Dolores Heather

Member, Sutherland Shire Environment Centre

Is our Shire’s water supply under threat? Is Government putting its mining royalties before the security of our drinking water catchments?

A vital part of our Shire’s water supply is already suffering from longwall coal mining close to Woronora Dam – and worse is proposed!

Longwall mining is now widely recognised as the cause of damaging subsidence problems, especially in Greater Sydney’s water catchment areas. This extensive form of mining leads to rock-cracks and land-collapses in the ground above. Metropolitan Colliery is proposing to extend the longwall mining it is currently doing under Waratah Rivulet and under the Woronora Dam storage itself. The Rivulet provides a third of the Woronora’s water. Along sections of the Rivulet the water already disappears into rock-cracks.

A number of streams above other NSW longwall mines have run dry due to mine-related surface cracking. So the threat to our Woronora water supply is obvious. Our Shire’s excellent water supply – nearly all of it from Woronora Dam – is now under threat from two sides: on one side, State Government says it will locate a huge desalination plant on Kurnell if dam levels fall below 30% (now 35%); on the other it looks likely to sanction this latest longwall mining proposal that will diminish the capacity of the Woronora catchment.

WaterFirst is a community coalition working to protect our drinking water catchments from the damaging effects of mining, especially in Sutherland Shire and Helensburgh. For more information visit www.waterfirst.localaction.com.au

Water First

