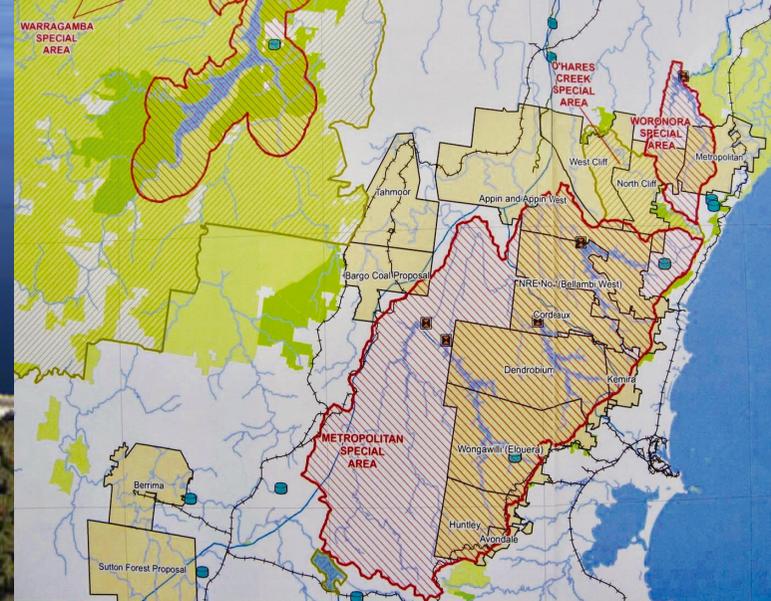


The Illawarra is the only place in the world where longwall mining is allowed under vital community water supply.



More than 5 million people rely on the water that comes from the protected Special Areas on Dharawal Country looking over Wollongong.

How important is water to you?

As of December 2019, our dam levels were less than 45% (with some in the region as low as zero-25%). This is despite the start up of the expensive, privatised desalination plant in Kurnell early in 2019.

Water is life

A recent report from the Office of the Chief Scientist estimated that just two of the mines operating in the catchment are causing the daily loss of 8 million litres of water. Other studies have estimated that the water loss from catchment mining is as high as 34 million litres per day.

Mining companies want to expand

Right now, mining companies' expansion proposals are under government review. South32 wants to increase the size of the Dendrobium mine over another 30 years. Wollongong Coal also wants to extend its Russell Vale mine closer to our reservoirs.

More than half of the Metropolitan and Woronora Special Areas (protected inner catchments) are covered by coal mining leases and more than 25% have already been mined. At current projections, 90% of the water catchment will have been mined by 2030.

As a result of community action, State Government has been forced to put new projects in the water catchment on hold. We must ensure that they don't seize any opportunity to push approvals through. It is time to end mining in our water catchment for good!

The water catchment is marked within the thick red lines, and filled with diagonal pattern. Mining leases are blocked out within straight borders (yellow fill).

Mining in the water catchment threatens the water supply for Wollongong and Sydney.

Mining is causing subsidence and surface-to-seam fractures in rock. This has drained creeks and swamps, and is destroying carbon-capturing ecosystems, as well as sites sacred to Yuin and Dharawal peoples.

Water crises are already happening

Communities across NSW have already run out of water, more towns will burn without water to fight fires, the Murray-Darling River is running dry, the Adani-Carmichael coal mine – if not stopped – will funnel unlimited ground water for 60 years. The changing climate means longer and more frequent droughts, more severe and frequent bushfires. Immediate actions to protect water supply are more important than ever.

Many of us feel the dread of the fires, the drought, the climate crisis that we are facing. Let's face this together.

Water, air, land, and living beings should not be sacrificed for the enrichment of a few. Together, we can stop mining in the water catchment. We can create the conditions for healthy, happy lives in the Illawarra for generations to come.

It's up to us!

Last year saw thousands participating in huge and vibrant days of protest for climate justice, in Wollongong and across the world. In 2020, we're seeing even more community action!

With community convoys to inspect the water catchment, more community actions like those that stopped the notorious mining industry conference 'Coal2020' from going ahead, info stalls at local events, workers demanding a just transition to green jobs, and more student-led climate strikes and community organising - if you're not involved yet, you can be!

Join POWA, connect with local orgs or start your own neighbourhood or workplace climate justice group.

Every day the mines in the catchment area waste enough water for the daily use of 170,000 people.



Damage from longwall mining. Waratah Rivulet photos: Julie Sheppard

STOP MINING IN OUR WATER CATCHMENT



Protect Our Water Alliance
www.protectourwateralliance.org



Protect Our Water Alliance



[protectourwater_alliance](https://www.instagram.com/protectourwater_alliance)



More info at:

<https://www.protectourwateralliance.org/>