



**P.O. Box 2127
Boronia Park 2111**

Department of Planning,
RE: Submission to Integrated Mining Policy.
6.7.15.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are a local conservation group that was established in 1966 around the time of a successful community campaign to protect the Field of Mars Reserve, a remnant bushland area in East Ryde, from use by Ryde Council as a landfill area.

Our members are extremely concerned at the overall impact of poorly controlled mining activity across catchments and ecological corridors in NSW. Control of cumulative environmental impacts is necessary if we are to ensure clean drinking water catchments and preservation of the state's biodiversity. Incremental damage is insidious but devastating in its cumulative impact: waterways experience a pollution incident, a road collapses or children's asthma rates increase in a town nearby to a mine but it becomes difficult to isolate a particular cause for a particular incident.

Good strategic planning controls should be able to identify and assess cumulative impacts and it is disappointing that this integrated mining policy makes not mention of this important requirement. Multiple mining projects within catchments, ecological corridors and air basins all have an environmental impact which when combined can have devastating and unfair consequences. There would seem a failure on the part of the NSW government to recognize their responsibility to control the potentially devastating cumulative impacts of mining development via good strategic planning.

Mining activity across NSW has "bolted" in the absence of effective planning controls at state level. Reigning in the cumulative impacts of these multiple developments is not achieved via simple statements and plans such as this advertised draft policy whose primary purpose would seem to be an attempt to streamline agency activity and reduce duplication and redtape. All of these are irrelevant and meaningless in the absence of effective strategic planning and with no recognition of, and control on, the cumulative impact of mining activity across the state.

We urge the State government to recognize the failures in the current planning controls and take immediate action to introduce a set of planning controls into NSW which protect water catchments, the health and amenity of townships affected by mining and recognize our shared responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for an opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,
Cathy Merchant, President.