Response given on Tuesday, 15 October 2013, re issues raised in the Sydney Catchment Authority’s submission on proposed amendments to the Mining State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP):

The department will not recommend for approval any mining project that will adversely impact on Sydney’s drinking water supply.

Underground mining has already been occurring beneath water catchment areas for decades.

The SCA’s call to prohibit longwall mining in areas identified within the Dam Safety Committee’s notification area is not within the scope of the proposed changes.

The proposed changes to the SEPP will not alter the requirement to consider relevant development assessment matters under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, including any potential impact on Sydney's drinking water supply.

The changes only affect the consideration of mining-related matters identified under the SEPP, including resource recovery, transport, rehabilitation, natural resource and environmental management and site compatibility.