



Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

MEDIA RELEASE

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REPORT ON MINING IN THE CATCHMENT RELEASED

The NSW Government has today released the Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment's final report on the impact of mining activities in the Special Areas of the Greater Sydney Water Catchment.

Planning and Public Spaces Minister Rob Stokes said the report will inform the future of mining in the catchment.

"Sydney's drinking water catchment is so important to the future of our city and State, which is why we established the panel to provide expert advice on how we manage this precious resource going forward," Mr Stokes said.

"The Panel made 50 detailed recommendations which the NSW Government will review and respond to in due course.

"In the interim, no new development applications for mining in the Special Areas will be determined."

The panel found that current mining activities may result in water loss up to 8 ML/day, compared to previously reported losses of up to 820 ML/day in natural evaporation and environmental flows.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will now consult with key agencies including WaterNSW, the Resource Regulator and NRAR as well as external stakeholders to develop a plan of action.

The Independent Expert Panel for Mining in the Catchment was established in February 2018 to provide advice on the impact of mining activities in the Greater Sydney Water Catchment Special Areas, with a focus on risks to water quality and cumulative impacts.

The report is available on the [Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer's website](#).