

## OBJECTION TO RUSSELL VALE EXPANSION PROJECT

To whom it may concern,

Wollongong Coal wants to build a new metallurgical coal mine project at Russell Vale - underneath Sydney and the Illawarra's drinking water catchment - risking our water, our climate and the health of the local community.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has recommended that the project "is approvable", but their assessment is flawed:

- If the Russell Vale coal project goes ahead, an additional 304,600 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e per annum of Scope 1 and 2 emissions will be added to NSW's greenhouse gas inventory at a time when NSW Government policy requires a *reduction* in GHGs of 35% by 2030.
- Promised socio-economic benefits are unlikely to materialise. Wollongong Coal is insolvent, carrying a billion dollars in debt and has not paid one cent of company tax since 2013. On top of that, they cannot operate the only other mine they own in NSW at Wongawilli safely. They were forced to cease mining at Wongawilli in 2019 - with huge job losses - when the Resources Regulator found it was not safe for workers.
- Local health impacts have been downplayed. For example, to shift the coal to the Port Kembla export terminal, a truck movement would be required every two minutes, six days a week. This would generate coal dust and diesel air pollution problems for the heavily urbanised community living a stone's throw from the proposed development.

I object to Wollongong Coal's proposed new metallurgical coal mine project at Russell Vale. It clearly risks our water, our climate and the health of the local community at a time when the fossil fuel market is dying on the vine. It has no positives.

Thanks and regards,

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