

To the NSW Independent Planning Commission,

RE: Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project.

I strongly oppose the Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project due to social, economic, environmental and health concerns. As a resident in close proximity to the Russell Vale colliery, I am extremely concerned about the impact of particulate pollution on my own health and that of my neighbours. The close proximity of the colliery to residential areas makes the risk of adverse health impacts associated with coal processing even greater and makes any further expansion of the mine completely inappropriate. I am also concerned about the threat triple seam mining poses on our water catchment that serves Greater Sydney. Evidence of subsidence and water loss from previously mined seams is extremely concerning and any further damage should be prevented altogether. With coal infrastructure becoming ever more redundant as we inevitably transition away from fossil fuels, the project itself is not economically in the long term. Furthermore, the financial and social history of Wollongong Coal draws doubt as to whether they would deliver on any socio-economic benefits suggested. Finally, damage has already been occurred to sacred Indigenous sites at the hands of previous mining operations, which should be prevented from occurring again in the future.

‘Monitoring’ risk is not enough. It is only satisfactory to prohibit it from occurring altogether. Once water, health or culture is lost it cannot be retrieved.

Regards,
Claire Rogers
(East Corrimal)