There will be numerous speakers and submissions highlighting all the detrimental affects the expansion of the Russell Vale mine will have on the local community from airborne pollution to the problems of increased large truck movements.

Many young families have bought into the Russell Vale/ Corrimal area over the last few years with many doing up houses to raise their families. This decision has them extremely worried.

Apart from the benefits of employing a small work force, the mine does not contribute to the betterment of the local community and the region in general. The proximity to established housing and schools makes any push for expansion of production that can have catastrophic affects, madness.

There is a delicate environmental balance going on between mining and the condition of the catchment area. The general public do not see worrying visual aspects of this area and monitoring does not allow for any photographs. The region does not need any more environmental worries.

Wollongong Council is making a concerted effort to clean areas up for the 2022 World Cycling Championships and this is exactly the direction the region should be taking in encouraging this growth. With its natural assets, the Illawarra has huge potential for business growth in highlighting this and incorporating the tourism industry. The growth in this sector benefits the local council as well as the State Government. The environmental concerns of this expansion are justified.

Newcastle is a perfect example of a positive transformation that was well planned and now brings huge benefits to the region including a demand for housing. The Illawarra can have this same positive growth but that will not happen if the region is held back by outcomes affected by negative and destructive decisions.

The financial problems the company has with the State Government will be well documented and that alone is enough to indicate that they cannot be trusted with making sure the environment as well as the communitys are safe.

This expansion must not go ahead.