

This submission is made as I object to Wollongong Coal's proposed Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project (Major Project 09-0013).

The main reasons for my objection include:

The rewards of the exploitation of NSW resources will be going offshore to an Indian company, through Wollongong Coal that has proved itself to be financially inept; unfit to undertake mining in NSW; that pays no company tax and little royalties to the people of NSW; and continually mis-treats its employees and contractors. All the while expecting Australian citizens (through the government) to fund the offsetting of the resultant carbon emissions.

The mining will exacerbate impacts to drinking water and severely impact the surface and groundwater ecosystems and biodiversity of the Woronora Plateau. There is clear evidence from the companies own monitoring showing the fracturing of rock and loss of water from these environments. Additionally the organisation charged with managing Sydney's diminishing drinking water supplies in our changing climate opposes the mining, which should be warning enough.

An effectively bankrupt, unlisted (on ASX) company that leases public land is capable of restricting access to this land, without any requirement or commitment to manage that land for future generations. There has been zero measurable action (not just plans) by Wollongong Coal to meet its environmental requirements for land management, with large tracts of the Wollongong Escarpment and the Woronora Plateau within the mining lease undergoing serious environmental degradation from poor water management, weeds and feral animals.