

## **Submission in Support of the Russell Vale Underground Revised Expansion Project**

Coal is Australia's and NSW's most valuable export.

Our national, state and local economies rely heavily on coal mining which provides multiple benefits for all Australians.

The Russell Vale Underground Revised Expansion Project will generate \$30 million in net economic benefit for NSW and the Illawarra local community.

Coking coal from coal mines in the Southern Coalfield, such as Russell Vale Colliery, has ideal qualities for steel production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur and phosphorus, than coal from countries in Asia.

The full-time employment of 205 new employees at Russell Vale Underground Revised Expansion Project is at stake. An additional 22 people will be employed during construction work.

The federal government's ABS tables of multiplier effects show that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person directly employed in a coal mine.

Australia and NSW need to focus on the positive aspects of coal mining and its many benefits so as not be distracted by ideologically driven anti-mining activists. Everyone should be proud of what coal mining is doing for NSW and Australia.

It is vital that high quality metallurgical (coking) coal is produced locally to supply the world's steel works. Local coal production minimises transport costs and ensures that high quality coke is produced. This assists Australia to maintain its competitive advantage compared with overseas producers.

The Russell Vale Underground Revised Expansion Project will deliver more than \$70 million in rates, royalties and taxes to local, state and federal governments.

Its continuance will maintain support for more the NSW businesses which provide supplies and services to the mine.

The mine owner, Wollongong Coal, is making a significant capital investment in the future of Russell Vale Colliery.

The report submitted by Russell Vale demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The benefits from the continuation of this coal mine are immense.

For all of these reasons I fully support the Russell Vale Underground Revised Expansion Project.