Dear Independent Planning Commission members,

I object to the Wollongong Coal Ltd’s Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project (Major Project 09-0013).

The current longwall project has significantly larger and continuing subsidence impacts than previously predicted. The proposed expansion includes a method of mining a third coal seam between two previously mined seams. This triple seam mining method is particularly risky due to lack of significant precedent. There has been expressed concern about the unknown, potentially irreversible cumulative effects of previous longwall and proposed triple seam mining activity on the water catchment.

I read years ago that Sydney is the only major city in the world to allow mining activity in its water catchment area. That this distinction is held in a country where water is a scarce resource is more than dubious. The long-term economic prospects of this mine are also questionable according to some economic experts. Water shortages or contamination outcomes of catchment mining activity would have negative impacts on Sydney businesses, communities and taxpayers.

This project should not be approved.

Regards

Chris Bilsland.