The Russel Vale Underground Expansion Project poses an unacceptable risk to the water supply of the Greater Sydney area. In a time of increasing weather extremes including frequent droughts, any move to put a catchment area at risk is almost pure insanity.

There is likely to be limited benefit to the region in terms of profit and jobs, in terms of risk/benefit the risks far outweigh any real benefit seen by the Illawarra region. Whilst it is true that Coal is still required for the manufacture of steel, there are other alternative areas in Australia for the mining of coal that do not put at risk important water supplies.

Mining companies rarely cover the costs of the long-term damage they inflict, this location is too important to risk mining.