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

1/ I'm concerned about damage to the Greater Sydney Water Catchment. Triple seam mining is relatively untried, so the risks are great.

2/ I'm concerned about the impact on local ecosystems. The mining expansion will drain water from the catchment. In a context of increasing heat and drought due to climate change, this is a major threat to local ecosystems.

3/ I'm concerned about increasing bushfire risk. Draining water from the catchment. In a context of increasing heat and drought due to climate change, will also make the Cataract Reservoir catchment area more flammable.

4/ I'm concerned about the local community having to pay the costs of managing the outflow for an indefinitely long period of time.

5/ I'm concerned that the purpose of this proposal is to pave the way for a much larger expansion of mining in the future. This will pose even more risks of the types enumerated in this submission.

6/ I'm concerned about particulate pollution, as the coal mine is very close to residential areas.

7/ I'm concerned about Wollongong Coal. First, there is its financial situation. I understand that its liabilities outweigh its assets by around A$1 billion. Then there is its poor track record.

8/ I'm concerned about the greenhouse gas emissions the expansion would engender. Climate change is the greatest threat humanity has ever faced, and we should not be starting new projects that will add to climate change rather than mitigate it.

Keith Horton