

Wollongong Coal Ltd's Russell Vale Coal Mine Extension Project (No. 09-0013)

I object to this project primarily because of the threat it poses to our Sydney drinking water.

The proposed mine is UNDER the Cataract Reservoir. The work is to be done in a high risk way and is the third layer of mining to be undertaken in the rock under the dam holding Sydney's drinking water. The NSW Department of Planning is aware of this, but seemingly ignores ongoing subsidence already shown to be destabilising the rock mass. Rock is not flexible, movement causes cracking, and subsidence is already happening.

In a time of rapid climate change, with extreme heat, drought and unpredictable weather events escalating, for our government to allow this threat to the drinking water of Sydney is shocking. There are also, of course, many other reasons to oppose this project.

Drying of the land surface following water loss would cause loss of habitat and subsequent loss of wildlife, and increased chance of bushfire.

The mining process itself uses water to produce the coal. Coal itself is a fossil fuel that we should not be supplying for burning as it releases greenhouse gas adding to global warming, reducing our chances of meeting our Paris Agreement target.

Increased local noise, light, traffic volumes and air pollution with harmful particulate matter are all negative effects for the local community.

The loss of water from our Reservoir would continue beyond the life of the mine, since the hollowed out seams would fill and keep flowing for the foreseeable future. Wollongong Coal supposedly would agree to 'manage' this loss for 10 years only.

Our government's Planning Department personnel should be looking at how to future proof our Sydney Water supply, not play Russian Roulette with it.

This project is against the Public Interest. The mine contributes only negative effects for us, pollution, longterm threat to our water supply, no financial return to Australia whatsoever as no company tax has been paid since Wollongong Coal started in 2013 and none are likely anytime soon, and probable long term expensive insoluble problems inherited by our future generations.

Please reject this project.

Janet Thompson
25.10.20

