

To the Independent Planning Commission,

I oppose the application for approval to extend mining at the Russell Vale Mine.

The earth is fast approaching irreversible tipping points in its climate. While the Australian people overwhelmingly recognise the existential threat we face, the Australian government ignores the science solely to placate climate change denialists and powerful vested fossil fuel interests.

The phasing out of coal mining is occurring throughout the world. Coal mines will, in the medium term, become stranded assets. It is not in the economic interests of this region to continue to support a dying industry, while ignoring the fact that there are thousands of green jobs to be created from renewable energy. We should be investing in the development of technology to produce green steel.

Fresh water is one of the scarcest resources on earth. It is madness to continue mining under our drinking water catchment. Existing mining has polluted the water in the catchment, caused surface cracking with resulting surface streams and wetlands draining underground.

We all have a responsibility to slow and stop climate change, and that includes the Independent Planning Commission. The Commission must give greater weight to the long term, to the environmental legacy and economic opportunities of our children and grandchildren. The needs of the majority must outweigh the short-term profits of a mining company, and mining jobs that, in less than a generation, will disappear.

I strongly urge the IPC to reject the extension of Russell Vale mine.

Yours sincerely,

Bernie O'Donnell
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