**Submission Against Wollongong Coal’s Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project.**

This mining will take place in the Special Areas of Greater Sydney Water Catchment – an area forbidden to public access due to their sensitivity and strategic importance and up to an area underneath the shores of the Cataract Reservoir -a very risky endeavour.

It uses triple seam mining processes and new information shows that subsidence could be much greater that originally portrayed. With this risk of instability, that Wollongong coal admits, it is unacceptable for the NSW Government to allow this mine to proceed in the water catchment for Greater Sydney’s 5 million people.

The mine expansion will drain both surface and ground water from the Cataract Reservoir catchment area this drying will exacerbate biodiversity in the area and will make the native plants, animals, birds, reptiles and insects lives unsustainable. Consequently, the bush will be drier and more subject to bushfire risks.

If approved, Russell Vale would be in the top 100 biggest emitters of Scope 1 emissions in Australia. A lot of methane would be released in the atmosphere during mining. Russell Vale would only add an additional 0.25% of coal per annum to Australia’s coal output BUT a very LARGE volume of GHGs to NSW’s inventory. IT’S NOT WORTH IT.

WCL’s parent Company in India, Jindal Steel and Power Ltd is not a fit and proper company to hold a mining licence. They should NOT be allowed to mine in a water catchment of the largest city on the driest inhabited continent on earth.

Wollongong Coal does not pay company tax. It has lost money every year since 2013 when the current majority owner took control. It has lost money, so no company tax has been paid. DON’T ALLOW THIS TAX RORT TO CONTINUE.

This proposed mine is not in the public interest. I ask that this application be rejected and a process to close the mine permanently, be instigated.

Cataract Reservoir catchment area