I object to Wollongong Coal Ltd’s Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project (Major Project 09-0013).

Some of the reasons for my objection are:

This application is not in the public interest - either the local Wollongong area to the greater Sydney population, **because of the risk of damaging the precious Greater Sydney Water Catchment,** an area that is designated a Special Area and because of its sensitive and strategic importance, and as such, forbidden to the public.

I am also concerned about the likelihood of **degradation to our unique ecosystem**, and the impact of the mining expansion on the biodiversity in the area. This mining expansion will drain surface and ground water from the Cataract Reservoir catchment, which will then lose the ability to sustain our unique native birds, plants, reptiles and insects.

This colliery is situated **nearby dense residential areas.** Residents have already long suffered from negative impacts of mining, including noise and particulate pollution. This is not a suitable area for a mine. In addition, if the coal project goes head, Russell Vale will be in the top 100 largest emitters of Scope 1 emissions in Australia, and for very little output. This means increased greenhouse gas emissions, at a time when the community is overwhelmingly calling for decreased gas emissions, due to the contribution to climate change. Our future generations need us to stand up against these kinds of projects.

These are just a few reasons to reject this terrible proposal. I urge you to consider our community and our environment and reject this mine expansion.

Jeannine Baker