I object to the Wollongong Coal Ltd’s Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project

**More damage and water loss in our catchment**

Damage by longwall minimising is minimised by the company. Previous mining of Longwall 4 resulted in subsidence of 1.4 metres which was nearly five times the predicted subsidence (2).

**Ecosystem degradation**

The mining expansion will drain both surface and ground water from the Cataract Reservoir catchment. This dewatering, exacerbated by drought and climate change, will impact the biodiversity in the area. As the area dries out, it loses the ability to sustain native plants, animals, birds, reptiles and insects in the area.

**Lack of corporate responsibility**

This company will walk away from any damage done after extracting enough profit. Wollongong Coal’s liabilities outweigh its assets by approximately A$1 billion. It cannot be expected to properly resource mining in the sensitive and strategically important water catchment. If this mining is ap[proved, the company should provide $500 million to the Govt upfront to cover the cost of repatriation. Even this amount will not cover the true cost of damage to the environment.

Wollongong Coal has lost money every year since 2013 when the current majority owner took control. As the company has not generated a taxable income, zero company tax has been paid to the Australian Government since 2013. This is very unlikely to change in future.

The Planning Department’s recommendation that Wollongong Coal be required to merely “make a plan” for outflow management is ludicrous; it is indicative of the Department’s failure to protect our water through decades of mining the Greater Sydney Water Catchment.

Thankyou for hearing my objection