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To IPC,

Re: Objection to Major Project 09-0013

As a lifelong resident of the Illawarra, I would like to express concern & objection to Wollongong Coal Ltd's Russell Vale Revised Underground Expansion Project (Major Project 09-0013).

My reasons are as follows:

- 1) The mining will occur in our water catchment, which is sensitive & precious. Our water supply requires protection from contaminants (i.e. mining discharge) and water loss (from mining practices). Despite efforts from mining companies to make their practices 'sound' they are not guaranteed and therefore not worth it with something as valuable & precious as water.
- 2) There is no doubt that the mining activity will drain water & impact our already fragile ecosystem further degrading animal, bird & insect life. Without water, or with poisoned water – they will surely die out.
- 3) Run-off into the escarpment will undoubtedly negatively impact the surrounding environment. We need to protect the remaining habitats. More coal mining will cause more pollution across the board also including infrastructure (trucks) & coal particles.
- 4) Triple seam mining – as proposed, is not known to be safe.
- 5) Wollongong Coal is an Indian Company with a poor track record of paying tax or taking regard for environmental issues—the proposed expansion does little for the Illawarra Community, it is intended for steel manufacturing overseas. It only seems to cost us, and will cost our children in the long run. Please put public interest ahead of corporate greed.
- 6) Australia is on the brink of an environmental catastrophe. Prompt action is required from governments & decision makers to buffer irreversible damage.
- 7) Wollongong is in a perfect position to be a role-model & leader with respect to environment issues – wouldn't it be wonderful if this is what we were known for? We could lead the way on alternative energies & prioritize protecting our last remaining environmental assets.

The proposed mine expansion is not in the public interest. I sincerely request that you reject this application from Wollongong Coal and recommend a process to close the mine at Russell Vale permanently.

Sincerely

Dora Karavasilis