I am writing this submission to object to the Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project. I have been a local resident of this area for over 25 years and I am concerned about the Project’s impact on both the local environment as well as the health and well-being of my local community.

My primary concern is that if this Project goes ahead, there will be more damage and water loss in our water catchment. This damage would be irreversible. Furthermore, if the project goes ahead it is estimated that there would be 32 truck movements per hour on the Northern Distributor. This raises the serious issue of Coal particulate pollution to local residents and schools along the truck route and around the colliery.

I am concerned also because if this proposal is accepted, it will pave the way for a much bigger expansion of mining around Cataract Reservoir and this will lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions. I am very concerned about the impact of climate change on our environment, especially after the catastrophic fires of last summer, and the coal from this project will all be exported to India. I find this proposal unacceptable.