

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission on Russell Vale Colliery Underground Expansion Project  
**Date:** Monday, 7 December 2015 9:06:59 PM

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I am writing to object to Wollongong Coal's proposal to expand their Russell Vale Colliery.

I object to this proposal mainly for the risk it poses to our water catchment systems for Sydney. The Cataract Reservoir is our most reliable source of drinking water, but it is already riddled with mines and is vulnerable. The Federal government's Independent Scientific Committee has already found a fault in the proposed area for new mining that could cause the leakage of the entire stored waters of the Cataract Reservoir through the labyrinth of mines.

Adding to that, the mine's own consultant, WRM, estimates a worst-case scenario of the proposed mining resulting in losing surface water baseflow up to 7.3 ML per day. That's the average daily water consumption for 24,580 people.

I hear these reports, and it's very concerning. Equally concerning is the plan to increase the stockpile on site at Russell Vale from 80,000 to 360,000 tonnes. This massive stockpile would be located just 225m from people's homes and 500m from a pre-school. Coal stockpiles are major emitters of coal particulate pollution that is known to increase human morbidity and mortality.

Coal mining is a very dirty industry. It pollutes our air, pollutes our water, and its burning contributes to global warming. It's not a smart economic choice either, as coal prices around the world continue to go down. These downsides make Wollongong Coal's proposal a dangerous one, and a stupid one. I urge strong rejection of the plans.

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Design - Illustration - Animation

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