



**THE UNITED MINeworkERS
SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICTS**
(Division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union)
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Dear Sir,

As Secretary of the Mine Workers in the South Western District I would like to make a positive submission for continued mining at Wollongong Coal's, Russell Vale mine.

Mining in the Illawarra has been proudly ongoing for over a hundred years in conjunction with other industry developments and residential areas. These have occurred in harmony with minimal disruption caused by Coal Mining.

The Illawarra community, Schools and Businesses have benefited financially from these workers being local residents and the effects of the 700 redundant Coal Miners in the Illawarra in recent times, will surely have a profound effect on a number of these Businesses. Statistics would suggest that for every Coal Miner, there are several other jobs affected.

Whilst we support Wollongong Coal's submission to continue mining in the Illawarra, we believe that Wollongong Coal's approvals should be conditional on re-employing redundant Russell Vale Miners under the current Russell Vale Mine Agreement. The reason for this is, if Wollongong Coal were to employ Labour Hire Miners that are paid substantially less pay rates, and either fly in and fly out, or drive in and drive out, they would not necessarily contribute to the economy of the Illawarra. The Illawarra community and Businesses expect better.

There are potentially 350 Jobs available at the Wollongong Coal's Russell Vale/Wongawilli mines, and there are a large number of skilled workers to fill these roles from the Illawarra. It would be ludicrous to ignore these skilled and competent workers.

Coal Mining is heavily controlled by The Department of Primary Industries, and issues that arise from mining are dealt with by appropriate departments or agencies. Mining companies in Australia, do not deliberately flaunt the working parameters of these agencies, as there are hefty penalties for doing so. Also the Inspectors keep a check on running of the mines to ensure compliance.

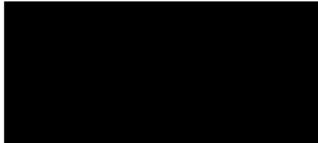
We believe that Coal Mining in the Illawarra can continue to work harmoniously with the environment and provide much needed employment for the ongoing good of the Illawarra. To deny the Illawarra of such potential would be devastating to the economy and wellbeing of area.

Coal Mining in the Illawarra is still a viable industry, despite reports from various entities that believe it should cease. It is far more reliable to deliver Electricity and make steel than other methods and is

clearly a better option than Nuclear. I think we all have concerns about the hazards of nuclear power considering the profound effects from some of the recent disasters.

I strongly believe you should consider the application to allow mining to continue, and let the Illawarra prosper.

Yours Faithfully



Lee Webb