

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PAC Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Expansion of Russell Vale Coal mine
Date: Monday, 7 December 2015 1:29:00 PM

I am writing to object to Wollongong Coal's proposal to expand their Russell Vale Coal mine. I object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- The proposed expansion of the mine will cause subsidence, cracking and water loss in Cataract River, Cataract and Bellambi Creeks, as well as drying up the swamps which provide water storage in times of drought;
- Sydney water catchment is put at high risk from the proposed mining of a third coal seam below two previously mined coal seams. The implications of this method of longwall mining have not been documented and are potentially dangerous to the integrity of the water supply and the actual structures of the Cataract Reservoir;
- Modelling by the mine's own consultant estimates the proposed mining could result in surface water baseflow loss of up to 7.3 ML per day - the equivalent of the average daily water consumption for 24,580 people;
- The proposed expansion would increase the stockpile at Russell Vale to 360,000 tonnes of coal which would be stockpiled in a mountain 33 metres high – the height of an 11 story building. This massive stockpile would be located just 225m from people's homes and 500m from a pre-school. There is scientific evidence that coal stockpiles are responsible for particulate pollution that causes respiratory and cardiovascular health problems and cancers, while the mine itself is also a concerning emitter of particulate matter and coal dust and it's too close to a residential area.

In conclusion, I invite the PAC to reject the proposed expansion of the Russell Vale Colliery and protect the integrity of Sydney's Water catchment and ensure that the health of the local residents is not put at a higher risk from an increase of the mining operations.

Warm regards

Lida McCool

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