



9 October 2020

Mr Matthew Newton  
Principal Inspector Environment & Rehab  
Resources Regulator

via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Newton,

### **Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project**

I write in relation to the above application which is currently before the Independent Planning Commission (**Commission**) for public hearing and determination. In its consideration of the application, the Commission would be assisted by the Resource Regulator clarifying the matters outlined below:

#### **Mining Methods**

- Clarification as to whether other mining methods (for example the 'pine feather' mining method) were considered.
- Potential monitoring methods which could be used where it is uncertain if the ground overlying existing workings has subsided.

#### **Subsidence**

- Impact on subsidence if the pillars in the overlying Bulli and or Balgownie seams have not collapsed.
- Apart from the existing Bulli and Balgownie workings, are there any other hazards that could prejudice the stability of the proposed workings and therefore increase the subsidence risk?
- Risk of connective cracking within the catchment area.
- Risk of subsidence associated with mining to recover longwall equipment
- In the event that pillars in the overlying seams are not fully subsided, how quickly with this be apparent? Will it be apparent quickly enough to stop mining or is it possible that this could occur some time after mining has finished?

#### **Rehabilitation and Closure**

- Estimated rehabilitation costs.
- Longer term responsibilities for the adit water discharge.

The Commission would be grateful if you could respond to these matters at your meeting with the Commission on Tuesday, 13 October 2020.



**New South Wales Government**  
Independent Planning Commission

If you have any questions, I have asked Mr Brad James, [bradley.james@ipcn.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bradley.james@ipcn.nsw.gov.au) to liaise directly with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Barry', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen Barry  
Director of Planning