

From: [John Fitzgerald](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Wollongong Coal's Revised underground Expansion Project for Russell Vale
Date: Monday, 26 October 2020 4:56:54 PM

I object to the Wollongong Coal Ltd's Russell Vale Revised Expansion Project { Major Project 09-0013 }

Wollongong City Council staff need to question their decision : that they are satisfied with the Russell Vale Underground Expansion

- Records show that the Council Delegate had skipped half the meetings, in the last 2 years, of the CCC which reflected the total opposition of the community to the expansion.

Already, with the recent approval to mine under the Woronora Reservoir given the green light , with all the subsidence damage history known, we will now be facing further damage to the greater Sydney water catchment with the Russell Vale expansion.

The Russell Vale expansion involves particularly risky mining: TRIPLE SEAMING THAT IS A THIRD SEAM OF COAL being mined beneath 2 previously mined seams. TRIPLE MINE SEAMING HAS SCANTY PRECEDENT AND IMPACTS ARE DIFFICULT TO PREDICT.

New information shows subsidence above Longwalls 4&5 that was reported several years ago as 1.4 metres of subsidence [nearly 5 times the predicted subsidence of 30cms] is now 1.78m of subsidence. Wollongong Coal admits that instability in the overlaying old Bulli seam workings may cause pillar collapse and subsidence of the surface by 1 metre. It is unacceptable for the NSW WALES GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW SUCH RISKY MINING IN THE WATER CATCHMENT FOR 5 MILLION PEOPLE OF GREATER SYDNEY IN A TIME OF INCREASING DROUGHT AND THE UNPREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

The approval of the expansion would also reactivate a lapsed approval for Longwall mining , enabling 25 m of longwall mining close to the upland swamp, CCU54, to extract the abandoned longwall mining machine in logwall 6.

With the continuing history of subsidence, how much evidence does the NSW Government need to prohibit this dangerous and destructive practice of mining under further areas of Sydney's water supply ?

We already know previous mining of Longwall 4 resulted in subsidence.

Russell Vale expansion will lead to further damage and water loss in the Cataract Reservoir catchment draining surface and ground water . This dewatering will impact the biodiversity in the area.

Bushfire risk will be increased with the draining of ground and surface water in Cataract Reservoir catchment putting at risk the heavily treed Illawarra escarpment.

The economic case for the expansion does not stackup.

The mined coal would go to India and the people of NSW are likely to be shortchanged on the meagre royalties. Wollongong Coal's liabilities outweigh its assets by A\$1 BILLION- it cannot properly resource mining in this sensitive and strategically important water catchment.

There is nothing to be gained by this approval - the environmental damage could be catastrophic for the region as cheaper clean energy becomes essential in the attempt to control climate change.

Yours sincerely , Jennifer Fitzgerald
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