

From: [Christine Underhill](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Russel Vale Coal Plant submission
Date: Tuesday, 27 October 2020 4:37:54 PM

Dear Review Panel

I am one of the 80% of Australians identified in the 2019 Climate of the Nation survey wanting urgent action to lower carbon emissions. The recent devastating bushfires have emphasised that the world needs to act urgently. Estimations predict that greenhouse gas emissions produced by the planned Russel Vale Coal Plant will add 304,600 t CO₂-e per annum of Scope 1 and 2 emissions to NSW's greenhouse gas inventory at a time when NSW Government policy requires a reduction in GHGs of 35% by 2030.

Mining would take place in a Special Area of the Greater Sydney Water Catchment – an area that forbids public access because of its sensitivity and strategic importance in protecting water supply. Although proposing to use a mining process less-damaging than longwall mining, this project will still exacerbate the loss of surface and groundwater.

Australia is already the world's biggest exporter of metallurgical coal for steel-making, exporting 184M tonnes in 2019. Mining at Russell Vale would risk further damage to our water catchment for a project that would create a LARGE amount of greenhouse gases (it's what they call a 'gassy' mine) to add only a SMALL amount of new coking coal supply (less than half a tonne per annum over five years).

Promised socio-economic benefits are unlikely to eventuate. Wollongong Coal cannot operate the only other mine they own in NSW safely. They were forced to cease mining at Wongawilli in 2019 - with huge job losses - when the [Resources Regulator issued a stop work order due to significant safety issues](#).

[NSW EPA has been scathing about their management of their Russell Vale site](#), saying back in 2018 that the company was unable to “consistently manage and maintain pollution control equipment and plant on site”.

The company is [likely insolvent, carrying a billion dollars in debt](#) and has not paid one cent of company tax since 2013.

To shift the coal to the Port Kembla export terminal, a truck movement would be required every two minutes, six days a week, generating coal dust and diesel air pollution. As suburban homes in Russell Vale border the project on 3 sides, locals are rightly concerned about health impacts.

Matt Keen has already proposed that NSW is far better suited to becoming a renewable energy super power.

Please take these points into consideration when making your decision about approving this coal project.

Best regards

Dr Christine Underhill