



18 September, 2019

Major Projects Assessment
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our ref: 10.121.046.

Your ref: MP 09_0013

Attention: Jack Murphy,

**Russell Vale Colliery –
Revised Underground Expansion Project (MP 09_0013)**

The Dams Safety Committee (DSC) has reviewed the available documents pertaining to Russell Vale Colliery's Revised Underground Expansion Project (UEP). It is noted that only First Workings are proposed in the Wongawilli Seam.

Cataract Dam is a major water supply dam which is prescribed by the Dams Safety Committee, it is owned by WaterNSW. It is a 56m, mass gravity dam that forms a significant part of Sydney's water supply.

It should be understood that the interests of the DSC are specific to the safety of the Dam and its stored waters. The DSC understands that the future of the Colliery is to the west of the current proposal. There is potential that future workings in the Wongawilli seam would connect the extracted Bulli Seam below Cataract Reservoir to the mine portals. Previous workings within the Cataract Notification Area have been endorsed by the DSC on the condition that seals are installed in the mine workings in such a location to isolate the workings below the Reservoir from the mine portals. This consideration needs to be included in any future approvals to mine at Russell Vale Colliery.

The DSC notes issues concerning the possible consequences of ineffective Closure Plans. While the DSC considers it to be a low risk (based on the extensive Bulli Seam workings down dip of Wonga East), there has been no quantitative assessment of this risk for the time frame that the Reservoir will be in existence.

The DSC's views on the Proposed Underground Expansion at Russell Vale Colliery are as follows:

- The DSC has no concerns with the development of First Workings within the Notification Area.

Yours faithfully,

C. Salkovic
Executive Engineer
Dams Safety Committee