

Supporting Submission for the Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project

Our national, state and local economy relies heavily on coal mining so coal mining benefits all Australians.

Coal is one of Australia's and NSW's most important and valuable exports.

Coking coal from coal mines in the southern coalfield, such as Russell Vale Colliery, has ideal qualities for steel production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur, than coal from other countries. So the use of our coal is reducing pollution, such as sulphur dioxide, on a worldwide basis.

The employment of several hundred direct employees in the coal mine is at stake at Russell Vale Colliery.

The federal government's tables of multiplier effects shows that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person employed in a coal mine.

Australia and NSW need to focus on the positive aspects of coal mining and its many benefits so as not be distracted by ideologically driven anti-mining activists.

Dozens of longwalls have extracted coal beneath the stored waters of the catchment areas without any loss of drinking water since the 1974 Stored Waters Inquiry by Justice Reynolds.

There have been at least 17 longwalls extracted by Russell Vale Colliery (formerly called South Bulli Colliery) beneath the stored water of Cataract Reservoir without any loss of water. Not one drop of drinking water was "lost". A plan¹ showing many of those longwalls is attached from Book 2 on the "History of Coal Mining in the Illawarra" published by the Mineral Heritage Subcommittee of the Illawarra Branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) in 2016, Editor R A Cairns.

Further, the process of mining under stored water is controlled by the Dam Safety Committee established in 1978 by the state government for that purpose.

The people who are scaremongering about the security of our drinking water have caused a great deal of baseless community concern.

We should all be proud of what coal mining is doing for Australia, NSW and the Illawarra region.

The report submitted by Russell Vale Colliery demonstrates its comprehensive coverage of all environmental issues. The benefits from the continuation of this coal mine are immense.

For all of these reasons I fully support the Russell Vale Underground Expansion Project.

¹ Source of plan: Page 337 of Book 2 on the "History of Coal Mining in the Illawarra" published by the Mineral Heritage Subcommittee of the Illawarra Branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM) in 2016, Editor R A Cairns.

