

A massive  
COAL MINE  
EXPANSION  
near my home?!?

A coal stockpile  
14 storeys high in  
Russell Vale?!?

More mining  
under Sydney  
Water  
Catchment  
Area?!?

More  
trucks, dust  
and  
noise?!?



Welcome to Gujarat NRE's Russell Vale

MAJOR COAL MINING EXPANSION PROJECT!

*Gujarat NRE plans to expand its operations at Russell Vale Colliery from the current 300,000 to 3 million tons of coal per annum..... No thanks!*

ACT NOW: Gujarat NRE's MAJOR EXPANSION PROJECT  
is on exhibition for public comment until 5 April, 2013.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO BE HEARD**

**Make your submission at:**

**<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/>**

(Search for 09\_0013, NRE No. 1 Mine Underground Expansion Project)

## OVER 10 TIMES CURRENT COAL PRODUCTION AT RUSSELL VALE COLLIERY

- Last financial year, Gujarat NRE (GNRE) extracted 282,451 tonnes from this mine. The Major Expansion Project will extract 3,000,000 tonnes per annum. This will mean over ten times the noise, the dust and the trucks.

## 3 TIER LONGWALL MINING

- Longwall mining is one of the most destructive methods of underground mining; it causes extensive subsidence of the surface ground above.
- The Major Expansion Project will extract coal from a third coal seam *under two previously mined coal seams*.
- This 3 tier mining method has never been used before in the southern coalfields. When the previous mining company longwall mined the second seam at this mine, they extracted 1.2m of coal and created a surface subsidence of 1.4m. This time around Gujarat NRE intend to extract 3.2m of coal. The subsidence of 3 tier mining is unpredictable; there are no comparable examples that can be drawn on. The subsidence from the first longwall mine in the seam (Longwall 4, now completed) was far greater than the amount predicted by GNRE's consultants.

## SYDNEY WATER CATCHMENT SPECIAL AREA

- GNRE is applying for a major expansion of mining under the Sydney Water Catchment Special Area. Longwall coal mining is a listed Key Threatening Process that damages the surface and cracks water courses and swamps, causing water contamination and loss. The proposed mining undermines and threatens Cataract Reservoir, Cataract River, Cataract, Lizard and Wallandoola Creeks, a number of upland swamps, including swamps of significance, Endangered Ecological Communities and Threatened Species habitats. The watercourses and swamps to be undermined are an integral part of the Sydney Water Catchment system that supplies Cataract dam. The catchment has already been badly damaged by mining.
- This water catchment area provides water for over 4.5 million people or 60% of the population of NSW. Members of the public could be fined over \$40,000 for entering this area, yet the State government has no policy to protect it from the destructive effects of underground mining. The State government should be protecting the Sydney Water Catchment Special Area for future generations.

## IMPACT ON LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS AND BEYOND

This mine has the closest above ground infrastructure to homes and residential areas of any mine in the Illawarra and possibly Australia. This is what GNRE's Major Expansion Project is asking the government to approve....

Coal stockpile in Russell Vale	- Options of 315,000 to 840,000 ton coal stockpile is planned - up to 42 metres high, <i>as high as a 14 storey building</i> - 225 metres from homes - 375 metres from a School - 500 metres from a Pre-School .... Is NSW State Govt serious??????
Trucking coal to Port Kembla Coal terminal along Bellambi Lane and the Northern Distributor	- 682 truck movements per day, 45 truck movements per hour or approximately 1 coal truck every 80 seconds, if they are evenly spaced (and they won't be). Are you ready for more trucks and traffic jams on Bellambi Lane and the Northern Distributor? - Coal dust from trucks is a public health threat & the noise is hell for neighbours
Dust and noise pollution	- Dust and noise pollution from the colliery will spread over surrounding suburbs - Mine exhaust fan 400 m from homes blasts pollutants across West Corrimal.
Promises, promises	- Old promises & commitments from previous GNRE applications to address residents' concerns, but which are <i>yet to be honoured and acted upon, are recycled again.</i>



**IRRM (Illawarra Residents for Responsible Mining Inc) is a group of local residents formed to oppose this expansion and destructive mining methods.**

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