

24. Kurt Newman.

Support for
Hume Coal Project SSD 7172 & Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171

Date: 18 February 2019

I have been a resident of the Southern Highlands since February 2012 and would like to express my total support for the above-mentioned projects.

I was the founding Chair and Director of the Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd from 2013 – 2016 and in that time, I would regularly meet with members one-on-one over a coffee. The reason was to understand their business and what they expect from the chamber.

The subject of Hume Coal would come up because of the anti-coal signs and the potential negative impact on business. I would ask for their thoughts. The response varied depending on the type of industry however, support for Hume Coal was 100% in favour. This was followed by their expressing fear of the aggressive behaviour of the anti-coal lobby and therefore refrained from stating public support.

From a business perspective starting from the construction phase there will be a direct impact on local employment of 400 full time jobs and during operations 300 full time jobs.

The employment terms are an employee must live within 45 minutes of the site. Family members would therefore be moving with them injecting more cash to meet their needs for housing, food and clothing. This is anticipated to be \$600m in total.

Hume Coal has projected to spend ~~\$1,475m~~ ^{\$1.482} with local suppliers during the life of the mine. This would place positive pressure on business growth and will require more staff, therefore employment would be increased as a result.

From a community perspective Hume Coal has to date placed 22 apprentices and trainees at a cost of \$1m and by the end of 2019 it will be \$1.25m.

The organisation actively supports local not-for-profit charities including: the Sir David Martin Foundation's Triple Care Farm, Challenge Southern Highlands, The Kollege of Knowledge Kommittee for Kids, BCD Community care, BDCU Children's Foundation.

Other local businesses and organisations that have received funding though the Hume Coal Community Investment Program include Bowral Blacks Rugby Club, Moss Vale Junior Dragons Rugby League, KU Donkin Preschool, Mittagong Public School, Southern Highlands Youth Arts Council, Robertson Junior Spuddies, Robertson Rural Fire Brigade, Berrima Rural Fire Service, Colo Vale Public School, East Bowral Community Group, Southern Highlands Sailing Club, Bowral Mittagong Rotary Club.

Over the 20-year life span the expected direct income for the region is \$107m and indirectly \$54m as a result of these projects. The income would have an obvious flow on effect for everyone living in the Southern Highlands.

From personal experiences the management team of Hume Coal has always taken the time to listen, empathise and answer any question a concerned individual might have.

In summary, Hume Coal would provide economic growth for the region and a care factor thanks to the management team.

Yours Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Kurt Newman