

Verbal Presentation to IPC by HUGH R FARRIMOND Wed 27Feb19

My name is Hugh Farrimond. I am a resident of Berrima & I support the recommendation by the Dept of Planning & Environment to reject the proposal to mine coal in the NSW Southern Highlands.

I consider the project neither a financial nor a social benefit to New South Wales nor Australia.

### **Financial**

The potential damage to the aquifer, documented elsewhere, has a financial consequence beyond estimate.

### **Social & Personal**

14 years ago my late wife & I chose Berrima in which to retire. The historic significance of Berrima, it's size, infrastructure (both physical and social) and proximity to and remoteness from Sydney were factors in our choice.

The town is in a rural area, the air is clear & clean; and in winter, very crisp; the stars are amazing, and the nights are beautifully quiet.

I have no faith in the claim by Hume Coal that transport of bulk coal from Berrima to Port Kembla would have little impact on dust, air pollution & noise.

A possible outcome of this hearing is conditional approval of the mine. This possibility is of serious concern as the record of both state and federal governments in policing even basic rules is not impressive.

An underground coal mine with a mine head some <sup>3 sets</sup> 5km to the west and a railway line 2km to the south would, I consider, change Berrima from rural & historic village into an industrial area comprising a mine and a cluster of private dwellings and historic relics.

The industrial landscape would, I believe, significantly affect tourism. Visitor numbers to our historic sites would change these interesting places into simple relics.

I ask that this lovely historic Berrima be protected and request that the coal seam below us be permanently protected against exploitation.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Time 2 mins