

Presentation to the Independent Planning Commission 27th Feb 2019.

Christopher Mallet

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I would like to thank the commission for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Chris Mallet.

I strongly oppose the Hume Coal/Posco Mine

I live on the beautiful Wingecarribee river at the edge of Berrima with my family.

Just approx 2.3 km from the proposed mine head and huge industrial complex.

I would like to speak on Water and micropore coal dust.

Regarding water i would like to start by speaking about the OGALLALA aquifer in the States.

One of the largest and most studied aquifers in the world, stretching under 8 States. The worlds water experts said for 40 years pump away for 200-300 years no problem. So they transformed the dry western plains into a food bowl for the world.

80 years on we are told within 10 years it will be completely dry.

We need to learn from these mistakes.

The new International study released by Nasa shows declines in groundwater resources globally. This should alert us to the pressing need to manage groundwater resources sustainably.

I have been interested in the water catchment and affects from mining for 4 years since we heard about the issues with the Old Boral mine on our river.

2 weeks ago i attended the Government Expert Water Panel meeting in Picton, where i spoke and listened to harrowing stories from stockholders from around the catchment about rivers drying and pollution due to mining.

7 out of 14 NSW rivers are dry.

I have heard Government agencies such as the EPA, NSW Water, Scientific water experts and stockholders. All speaking from the same playbook about the catastophic state of our Sydney Water Catchment.

I understand our property bore , our neigbbours bore and 118 bores in the area will dry.

It is very clear and hardly rocket science to see that the Sydney Water catchment is running on empty and could end up dry like Cape Town.

Re starting the desalination plant is like putting a bandaid on a cancerous open wound, as it only produces 250 million litres a day. This hardly covers losses from the 8 major polluting mines in the catchment. The interim Expert Water Panel report just released says the Dendodrum mine is losing 7 mil litres a day down the mine for ever.

The water catchment in 1944 produced 280 megalitres now its down to just 80 ml last year before the drought.

The Tallowa Dam on the Shoalhaven river is used when 75% full to pump water to the Wingecarribee Dam and down the local Wingecarribee river to try to maintain the Warragamba Dam at 60%. Today , however, if you check the Tallowa Dam it is down to just 2.1%.

The old Bowral mine is still spewing 2 ml of toxic heavy metals of international significance each day, 120 times above recommended drinking water levels into the river as it flows on to Sydney's Warragamba Dam

supplying drinking water for 6.5 mil residents.

The proposed Hume Coal 42 sq km mine would add significant polluted groundwater from toxic tailings and polluted surface water run off would seep into the catchment and add to the toxic WC river pollution as we know from Dr Ian Wright's report.

Regarding micropore coal dust. On my way 2 weeks ago to the expert water panel meeting, i drove along Medway road under the motorway and was shocked to see the huge dust storm on the Hume Coal Mereworth historic property blowing red/orange topsoil away on the south westerly prevailing winds. The property has been mismanaged and overgrazed, ending up as an intense feed lot looking like a desert. This red/orange dust landed on my house roof and blew accross Berrima.

This is the same spot where the Hume coal 6 story high, 800 metre long coal stock pile and coal loaders and industrial site would be located. So on the strong sw prevailing winds micropore coal dust would blow from the stockpile onto my home roof so the rainwater that i harvest in my 120,000 litre domestic water tank would be dangerously contaminated and this is my only drinking water resource.

If the precautionary principle is used the mine must not proceed.

Thank you.

