

THE INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION NSW PUBLIC HEARING FOR Hume Coal Project SSD 7172 and Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171

Moss Vale 25/26 February 2019

Thank you for allowing me to speak today, and thank you to those who enshrined our right to a voice through the democratic process.

We are new to the area having lived in Berrima for only 6 months

I stand here as a representative, like so many people have done over centuries past when threatened by commercial development, to give voice to the thousands of people – women, men and children who will be impacted by this mine. I could say or maybe should say it could be millions of people who will be affected if and when the Sydney water supply is contaminated.

It is not only those who have made their lives here in Berrima and Medway, but all residents in the region who will be negatively impacted in one way or another.

An example is tourism – the first and most obvious for our historic town. I believe that the Government is supporting – or looking at – the value of the contribution Berrima makes to the success of this area as a tourism drawcard.

With the region's many attractions – both landscape and built - and proximity to Sydney, tourists have been coming here for more than 100 years and tourism is well known in that its influence thoroughly penetrates society, politics, culture, and above all the economy.

The Southern Highlands is an area of considerable growth, enhanced by tourism, and the development and expansion of population leading to housing and business growth in many towns and villages across the region demonstrates this. Ask any local about the influx of visitors on the weekends spending their dollars in a regional area.

No-one can tell how many businesses will be adversely affected if this mine goes ahead, let alone the impact of the dust on important heritage buildings and sites.

A note about the 'make good' for farmers' bores - a deeper bore will more than likely not produce more water.

Don't let it happen. Thank you.

Susan Forrest - Berrima resident