

PRESENTATION TO THE IPC 27th February 2019

Good morning. Thank you for hearing our story.

We moved to the Southern Highlands in 1995 and purchased our current property four years later. Our 350 acre farm in Sutton Forest was vacant land then, today it is a commercial entity where we breed both cross bred and Limousine cattle. The property has required a great deal of work. There was very little infrastructure, no town water, no electricity, gas or phone. Very scant fencing and no internal roads. In twenty years we have very much taken up the challenge building a home and a series of sheds, built dams [with the help of the NSW Land & Soil] road ways, laneways, kilometres of fencing and endless pasture improvements bringing Roscoe Park into the twenty-first century. Our lives changed the day the Hume Coal began their campaign to explore on and in our property. We didn't want their intrusion and we said so.

Arbitration: We engaged the legal services of Mary Lou Potts and in 2013 she commissioned a well respected agronomist Mark Lucas to do an assessment of the productivity of Roscoe Park . This is part of what he wrote: " All pastures other than those dedicated to remnant vegetation would be rated as highly developed and would certainly be in the top 5% of a positive productivity scale. We hadn't met Mark prior to engaging him however Hume accused him of being 'our friend' the first of many slurs cast upon us by Hume. Our first communication from Hume Coal was in June 2012 from Sarah Hafez with a request to do some prospect drilling on Roscoe Park. We declined her offer of compensation and said no to any prospecting. Our next door neighbour Mr Koltai accepted. He had right of way over the Roscoe Park drive way however our contract of sale stipulates that the road way, which is part of Roscoe Park can only be used for agricultural purposes we denied access for prospecting. Since we felt at risk of Hume entering Carters Lane [the access road] we set up a blockade on October 1st 2013 preventing such access. Hume Coal took us to court. On May 1st 2013 they won and accessed the Koltai land via our road.

Hume entered Koltai's land using very large heavy vehicles which caused a great deal of damage, both because of their bulk and that very heavy rain fell before and during their visit. In granting access the court noted that Hume must repatriate any damage done to the road. Many many requests were made to Hume to repair the road. It was so bad that sedan vehicles had to use the grass verge which itself was imperfect. Eventually we had to engage the Office of Compliance to get some resolution. Thirteen months after the damage was done we had the road repaired and presented Hume with the \$ 13,000 bill which they paid.

Should the mine proceed I fear that the damage bill to the aquifer, to the 93 bores which they have announced that they will interfere with and to the community will be severely at risk of never being addressed properly. Their statement that ... "the bores will be back to normal in 65 years" speaks to much of the disrespect in which they hold the community. Hume Coal proposed drill sites and number of holes on our property kept changing submission by submission. During arbitration it varied from four to twenty-two to seven and finally to eight. In one of their proposal Hume Coal nominated a site in the centre of the remnant endangered Southern Highlands shale woodland. Hume Coal and their Korean owners Poscoe have established themselves as the unwanted enemy of the Highlands. We on the other hand are surrounded by friends drawn together by a love of the Highlands and a common goal of defeating Hume's attempt to damage our homes, our community, and our future. Being told that the bores will be back to normal in sixty five years tells it all.

"No civilisation can survive the time when its agricultural economy is destroyed" Lloyd Noble, American agricultural philanthropist.

Please accept the findings of the DoP and deny Hume Coal the right to mine for coal here

MARGARET ALEXANDER [REDACTED]