

21

[New South Wales Government](#)
[Department of Planning](#)

Skip
Home



We are building a new website to better deliver information about Major Projects. The new website will go live on 25th February 2019 and will have a new web address (URL).

Kerrie Barnett , of Bowral NSW, made the following submission on the project:

Hume Coal Project

Objects to this project

As a long term resident of this area, with children and grandchildren living here, I am most concerned about the negative effects of the proposed Hume Coal mine on Southern Highlands NSW.

These include reduced air quality, irreversible impact on surface and groundwater and future land degradation through subsidence. There are also negative effects on the economy of this area which are already being felt by businesses who are putting expansion on hold, because of the impact the mine would have.

The report from the iesc raises serious questions about the company's EIS, as does further examination of the EIS by experts in the field. The science does not hold up. This is a project where the science is of paramount importance because it is all about the geology of this area.

I once lived in the English midlands for a year and know what it means to hang out washing on a sunny day ,only to find it black with soot by lunchtime. I despair to think what will happen to this special and beautiful area if this mine is permitted to go ahead. This land is ours to occupy and care for during our lives and to hand to future generations in good order. This is our country's future as well as our heritage. It is also a place with the potential to provide food both domestically and for export - we must look to our sustainable future and not cause irreversible damage for no more benefit than the promise of some jobs - that, compared to the jobs lost as the area declines in appeal, will be of small benefit.

The other issues relate to the expansion of rail traffic with noise impacting a wide area because of the inversion effect of the climate here. This was established some years ago by the Land and Environment Court when a quarry was proposed in the Berrima area. It is generally recognised that the eastern seabord of Australia is too valuable to be compromised by mining. It is residential and it is agricultural. The country needs to plan activities with an overview of damage control, to come up with a scale of benefits that take into account the particular characteristics of each area. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS HUME COAL PROJECT TO GO AHEAD AND IRREVOCABLY DAMAGE THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS OF NSW.

I speak as a local resident who will be affected by the proposed development. We own a property in the Berrima area, where we have lived and raised a family over the past thirty years. And now have three grown children and their children, living in the Highlands.

This development will affect the quality of life of all of us who treasure the Southern Highlands as a wonderful place to live and work and raise families. Traffic, noise and reduced air and water quality, are the obvious problems for health and enjoyment of daily life. The flow-on effects into loss of employment in the tourism, hospitality and agricultural industries are equally serious.

Overarching all of these things is the loss of food production land and the capture and conservation of clean water within reach of Sydney. These are problems of national concern, and the negative effects of mining on the safety and purity of our water aquifer cannot be reversed.

The work done by the experts in explaining the scientific basis for the need to resist these developments, puts the case for commonsense and the need to preserve this area for future generations.

I believe we should be supporting increased food production here. The land and climate offer great opportunities for feeding ourselves and the wider region. And while we maintain our pure air and water, highly sought-after organic produce is an option. Think of the jobs that can bring! There would be a need for a range of skills across the whole process and it could involve our young people at every level.

Productive work in a healthy and beautiful environment, builds a strong and supportive community. These are the firm foundations of our very human hopes and dreams, and we must remember the importance of a life which sustains our hearts and souls and builds a future for those who follow..

Let us act today, to safeguard our land and its gifts.
Say "NO!" to coal,
Say "YES!" to our wonderful community, as we build a bright tomorrow for us all.

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