

Professor Chris Fell AM
IPC Panel Chair Hume Coal & Berrima Rail Projects
Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioners,

SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE HUME COAL AND BERRIMA RAIL PROJECTS

My name is Terry Oakes-Ash OAM, FAICD, FIQ, and I am the independent Chair of the Hume Coal Charitable Foundation.

The Foundation was established some three years ago to provide grants, apprenticeships (through 1300 Apprentices) to support numerous local charities and worthwhile local community groups requiring assistance, to advance their goals in providing help to worthwhile causes in our local Wingecarribee community.

Some of those activities are:

- Challenge Southern Highlands supported employment service – training to assist people living with a disability at Welby Garden Centre;
- Illawarra Academy of Sport Athlete Scholarships;
- LATSTA ISTEM Wingecarribee Space Academy Program – funding for two students from the Wingecarribee to participate in 2016 US Space Academy Program and Field Studies Program;
- ‘Your Angel’ Traineeship for the disadvantaged;
- Undertake Mental Health Certificate IV for two employees from BCD Community Care Inc. via TAFE/OTEN;
- Scholarships at the University of Wollongong for residents of the Wingecarribee Shire; and
- Funding traineeships and apprenticeships for Interchange Australia, Manage my Event, Sir David Martin Foundation, Challenge Southern Highlands, and Koori Kulcha Aboriginal Corporation, to name but a few.

I have extensive involvement in the charitable sector in the Wingecarribee Shire and, like most places; the need invariably outstrips the available resources. Hume Coal’s willingness to commit funds through the Foundation is unmatched, in particular, for the youth of the district.

Since 2015 the Hume Coal Charitable Foundation has committed over \$300,000 to various causes and organisations meeting strict criteria, with independent oversight. A further \$500,000 has been dedicated to Hume Coal’s sponsorship programme since 2013.

In addition, I am also aware, that by the end of 2019 Hume Coal will have expended \$1.25 million as part of its apprenticeship programme.

As someone who has actively promoted the need for services to be made available to our youth, there are not enough services to meet the requirements in our Wingecarribee community, including providing training and jobs for young people to remain in their local community.

I fully support the Hume Coal projects and request that you take account of my views and not those who are seeking to undo the good work of the Charitable Foundation and other Hume Coal activities.

If the project is approved the Charitable Foundation will continue with its good works, that in my opinion, are second to none, compared with other business organisations.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Terry Oakes-Ash.

Terry Oakes- Ash OAM
Independent Chair
Hume Coal Charitable Foundation