

Submission to IPC – Louise Graham

Harming our environment, our country, the landscape, the ecosystems and their dependent species harms our very existence and we as a nation have to be cleverer on the way we manage the aboriginal peoples land that is, Australia. We have shown no respect to the indigenous people in our treatment of their land. This in itself has to cease.

This starts in our local community. We have heard from scientists, environmentalists, farmers, and Government regulatory bodies about the dangers we face having a new coal mining development created in this fragile ecosystem surrounding the Southern Highlands.

The impacts of Hume Coal's mine, and whatever leases they have for future mining, are not limited to the places they sit, especially because of the water flowing, and escaping, into vast interlocking landscapes, with cascading effects into land all around, and waters into, and through, and on towards our big city.

We have seen first-hand the pollution and contamination left behind from old extinct coal mines in our local area. This is our evidence.

We have heard from Hume Coal who blatantly repudiate any environmental harm being possible due to their mining operations.

Hume coal emphatically deny there will be any adverse effects due to their mining operations. Honesty should prevail, such as, yes, many trees and native vegetation will be destroyed, coal dust will be blown about, chemicals will escape into waterways. They only have weak arguments such as there will be less damage due to this or that or compared to any other coal mining operation in Australia our impact will be minimal.

Or else they claim, there will be no chemicals escape into waterways. With this dishonesty, no make good plans can possibly be thought about. If Hume Coal will be less dangerous than any other coal mine in Australia, then how much less dangerous, how much less pollution will it cause? Is there a measure of how much damage the mine will do?

There are too many unanswered questions, and Hume Coal are keeping too many secrets. We cannot and will not trust them.

Please consider rejecting the coal mine and rail projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this important matter.

Louise Graham  
Bowral resident