

I cannot understand how any mining can even be considered in the Sydney Water Catchment. The potential for damage to Sydney's water as well as local bores is just unacceptable. Even Hume have admitted they cannot guarantee there will be no damage to ground water and bores.

Then there is the dust, the visual effect, the noise and the light pollution that will occur in a beautiful part of the state as well as potential damage to agriculture, viticulture, tourism, etc. The closest village, Berrima, is a historic, listed village that deserves to be protected and preserved, the potential effects the mine will have on the village and its reputation are enormous and probably irreversible.

Although Hume Coal propose to use a rail line for shipment of the coal, there are still likely to be a huge number of truck movements on local roads especially during the construction phase. This is likely to have maintenance and safety issues.

The claims regarding job creation have verged on extreme and fanciful to the ridiculous and they have stated the mine will have a life of, I think 20 years? So, the jobs are not long-term or sustainable. Match this against the potential loss of jobs in tourism and other industries that could occur due to damage to the industries and the regions reputation this does not stack up either. I have requested a few times from Hume Coal a breakdown of the promised jobs and how many they expect to fill with local candidates and never had a response. Taking into account the fact they will automate it as much as possible then the jobs are likely to be highly qualified such as engineers and geologists and the chances of filling these locally are slim. Other jobs are likely to be cleaning, maintenance, etc. not really long-term career options.

Just based on the potential damage to water supplies this mine should not be allowed to go ahead. Add to that the potential for long-term damage to the environment, local businesses and the areas reputation as a beautiful, peaceful, rural destination I cannot see how this can possibly even be considered.

I do understand that coking coal is a necessary component in the production of steel but there must be other options for the supply of this material. It won't even be used in Australia or by an Australian company, it will just be another resource owned by an overseas company who have no reason to really care about the damage they may leave behind.