**Kim Zegenhagen and Andrew Preston**
[redacted]
[redacted].
**07/03/19**

The Independent Planning Commission.

Dear Sirs,

# Re: Hume Coal- Southern Highlands.

**It is apparent to all that the community, state government and local council all oppose this project**

- 97% of the 12,666 submissions on this project to the NSW Department of Planning were **objections**
- the Department of Planning ***"considers that the project is not in the public interest and should not be approved"***
- Wingecarribee Shire Council has objected to the project and have a policy against *any* coal mining in its local government area.

## Water

- The project is located within the upper reaches of Sydney's drinking water catchment.
- There is a threat of serious harm to both groundwater and surface water resources.
- Both the NSW Department of Planning and NSW Department of Industry (Water) consider that the predicted drawdown impacts on this aquifer would be ***"the most significant for any mining project that has ever been assessed in NSW".***
- There are no suitable or practical mitigation or prevention options for the landowners affected by drawdown impacts on the aquifer.
- There is a risk that mine water will be discharged into watercourses. Hume Coal has not assessed this issue or proposed a water treatment plant.

## Mine Design

- The combination of an untested mining method and an unconventional method of storing large quantities of mine water underground is likely to result in serious operational safety risks.

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## Wrong place for a coal mine

- The Southern Highlands region is widely known for its rural land uses, small-scale agriculture, scenic landscapes and tourism. The Department of Planning has observed that “the project site is not suitable for the development of a new coal mine.”

- The targeted coal resource is located in a shallow seam that is inherently difficult to extract without causing adverse environmental impacts and disturbing existing land uses.

## Adverse impacts on the environment and community outweigh economic benefits

- The NSW Department of Planning considers that the economic benefits cannot be realised without significant adverse impacts on the environment and the local community, particularly in relation to groundwater impacts.

For all the above reasons I urge you to stop this proposed coal development.

Yours sincerely

Kim Zegenhagen.

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