

## Submission

I object to the proposal by Hume Coal for a coal mine and railway in the Southern Highlands for the following reasons.

### **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 object 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.

## **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.