

SUBMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE HUME COAL AND BERRIMA RAIL ROJECTS

From a personal perspective there appears some hysteria to the threat of water table contamination versus the benefits the mining brings.

a) The only apparent area for contaminating aquifer(s) appears to be the ADIT where the tunnel entrance pierces the water table and historically, with this type of mining, the impact is controllable and remedial

b) The "apparent" benefits of the impacts of the Mine Fraternity/Sorority follows:

(i) Providing an area/forum open to the public and school & TAFE students to understand:

- the role of coal in the world sphere,
- steel manufacture locally,
- thermal pollution reduction and control methods local and overseas,
- the necessity for preservation of the Aquifers, surface vegetation & the environment per se,
- the value of the exports of coal/coke to the local and national economy,
- the technologies employed in mining to inspire work intention and education as graduates, apprentices or skilled labour in this and any arena.

(ii) The social conscience of a large corporate with respect to the community in:

- charitable support to the various local church and independent community help groups
- joint participation with local and State statutory authority bodies in repair, remediation and proposed infrastructure on roads, building and services

(iii) Apart from the obvious and immediate benefits of capital inflow from mine purchases locally the more subtle influences involve population growth that:

- increases retail turnover in refreshments, bulk goods, transport routes growth & participation
- enlivens long term real estate purchase and rental particularly in those areas closest to the site Moss Vale, New Berrima, Berrima and Medway
- increased population of the above villages and town would inject major investment into the "poor retail cousin of the Highlands" (Moss Vale) stimulating the shopping hub and under-used parking facilities.

I am a 13 year resident of the Highlands and firmly believe the practices of Hume Coal are sufficiently technically and morally to avoid, prevent or remediate any possible damage to the vital water table.

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