

Submission re the Hume Coal Project

I am a local Southern Highlands resident and I strongly object to the development of the Hume Coal Mine project. I urge the government to act in the best interests of the current and future generations of not just Southern Highlands residents, but also of those residing in the entire Sydney basin area, and indeed of Australia and also right around the globe. I believe that the recent decision made by the Land and Environment court re the Rocky Hill mine at Gloucester should serve as a fundamental guide to all decisions re new coal mines. The appeal to develop the mine was refused because of, not just the destructive impact on the local environment and community but also, in light of the additional greenhouse gas emissions that this mine would result in, that of the health of the entire planet. I believe this ruling should apply universally to all such applications to develop coal mines in Australia including the Hume coal project.

Last week I spent a morning at the Independent Planning Commission's hearing re the Hume Coal mine project. I was both impressed and moved by the presentations of those who spoke against the development of the mine. I strongly agree with the issues and concerns raised by these speakers including:

- severe risks to the water table and surface water, a concern which the Department of Planning and Environment has identified as a significant reason not to approve this mine
- threats to, the livelihoods and employment of local residents and, to well established businesses including the farming community and hospitality and tourism, both of which form part of the backbone of the local economy and lifestyle
- factors that will, some of which already are, impact/ing on the wellbeing and general health of local residents including dust, noise, and mental stress.
- deeply felt concerns about the future of the planet and the legacy that we are leaving for future generations.

I urge you to do all in your power to prevent the approval of this mine. It is high time that we started to seriously consider the impact of actions and decisions, not just on the present but, on the future generations. Judge Preston stated that the Rocky Hill mine “would be in the wrong place at the wrong time”, the wrong place because of the detrimental effects on the local community and the environment, and the wrong time because of the increased greenhouse gases that the mine would cause at a time when we should be decreasing the concentration of GHGs

David Morris, the chief executive of EDO NSW called the decision “momentous” and predicted that it would have a “profound effect” on fossil fuel projects of the future.

I believe it is profoundly irresponsible to sanction the development of any new coal mines, especially in the light of the 2018 IPCC report which warns that if we are to have a chance to prevent the dangerous warming of the global climate we must transition to accessing almost all of our electricity from renewables by mid-century.

I have grandchildren and am gravely fearful for their future. I urge the Independent Planning Commission to have the courage and wisdom to **not** be convinced by powerful coal mine companies and their dubious short term and profit driven benefits, but rather to act on the side of the of people and the planet and say **NO** to the Hume Coal project mine.

Barbara McKendry

