

Independent Planning Commission  
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

6 March 2019

**RE: Hume Coal Project SSD 7172 & Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171**

I wish to register a strong objection to the proposed mine in the Southern Highlands. At this stage in the review it is clear that the 'precautionary principle' must be invoked as the project cannot be considered an ecologically sustainable development – indeed unsustainable in all aspects.

In essence, I believe that the project is economically unviable and unsustainable, it is environmentally destructive, a health hazard, a disaster for the key economic drivers of the Highlands (health care, tourism, retail trade, education and training, accommodation and food services, agriculture etc) and, socially and historically anathema to the established, and greatly envied way of life for many in the state of NSW and beyond.

There are any number of outcomes from the approval of this mine that will be destructive and counterproductive to the fair and unrestricted enjoyment of the region.

**WATER**

Pollution of our rivers and streams – there is a serious risk of toxic mine waste water polluting Oldbury Creek, the Wingecarribee River and other streams, all of which end up being part of Sydney Water Catchment.

Further, existing water bores, and any future bores throughout the region will be seriously compromised. Many landowners will be affected with some bores drawn down by up to 80 metres, with the impact lasting for decades.

**DUST**

Hazardous coal dust carries a long way in the windy conditions that often occur in the Highlands. Along with diesel emissions, dust particles are a potential threat to human health, particularly in areas of higher population like Sutton Forest, Berrima, Burradoo, Moss Vale and Bowral.

**PROPERTY VALUES**

Due to the potential impacts of the mine, property values have already fallen in the affected areas – properties which lose their water (and potentially their businesses) will be worst hit. A decision must be made without further delay to provide certainty to the region.

**ECONOMICS**

Hume Coal's EIS completely ignores serious impacts on local industries, which contribute vastly more to the Highlands than mining ever will, should this project go ahead (see above). Loss of local jobs due to mining will greatly outweigh the relatively small number of jobs that Hume (dubiously) claims will

be created in this specialized, highly automated and dangerous underground operation.

As I understand it, the project will contribute very little to the NSW government by way of royalties.

#### HERITAGE

The Sutton Forest and Berrima areas contain some of Australia's most valuable and pristine colonial heritage assets – especially the township of Berrima. A coal mine in such an area will have a serious impact on the attractiveness of the area for tourism and heritage related activities on which the economy of the region depends, and which are key to its future prosperity.

#### MINE DESIGN

The unconventional design presents a range of uncertainties and safety risks particularly in regards to detrimental impacts on water resources.

#### WASTE

The plan to reinject the potentially toxic mine waste (including the chemicals used in the coal washing process) back into the mine. This largely untested technology obviously has the potential of failing, and then polluting any groundwater in the aquifer above the mine. Any new water bores drilled after mining could be compromised.

#### TRAINS, DUST & DISRUPTION

Hume plans to have 4 long coal trains every day thundering 24/7 from Medway through Moss Vale and Robertson down to Pt Kembla AND BACK, creating noise, dust and traffic disruption along the way.

#### SOCIAL IMPACT

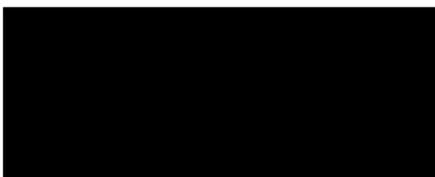
The uncertainty around this problem-ridden project has already caused anxiety, depression and ill-health in the community. The aggressive approach taken by Hume Coal, and the lack of transparency of their operation has made things very much worse and will only be amplified if a mine is approved.

I also wish to draw the Department's attention to the appalling track record that POSCO, Hume Coal's parent company in South Korea, has on the international stage. I have simply Googled POSCO and 'human rights'... 'environment'... 'corruption' and been horrified to find highly credible documentation of their dubious methods, values and wanton behavior as a major multinational corporation. WHY should we have ANY faith that this is not how the precious Southern Highlands will be treated.

The project has risks and uncertainties that cannot be measured.

I ask the NSW Government to reject this proposal.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Janice (Jan) Campbell