

# SUBMISSION TO INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

SSD 7172 - Hume Coal Mine

SSD 7171 - Berrima Rail Extension

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to express my objection to Hume Coal's application (SSD 7172) to build a new coal mine in the Southern Highlands and the associated Berrima Rail Extension (SSD 7171). The mine, as proposed in Hume Coal's EIS represents an immediate threat to residents of the Southern Highlands as well as those of Sydney.

Amongst the risks created by mining within the Sydney water catchment are aquifer disturbance and pollution, subsidence, water draw down and an overall reduction in safe, cleaning drinking water available to the population.

My range of concerns incorporate:

## **WATER**

- 118 Bores on 71 properties will be affected by water drawdown. The impact on bores will remain for between 36 to 65 years, after mining ceases, or potentially in perpetuity.
- Treatment and release into Oldbury Creek of surplus onsite mining water in years when above average rain falls or during flooding events.
- Water used to wash coal and residual "spoil", which will be pumped back underground into mine voids. This toxic hazard will then sit adjacent to the Aquifer, which will have the potential to leak and contaminate ground water permanently, risking bore water quality for agriculture operations in the Highlands, and Sydney's drinking water. This area feeds the Sydney Water Catchment.

## **NOISE, AIR QUALITY AND LIGHT-SPILL FROM MINE SITE**

- No mention is made in the EIS of noise impacts on the township of Berrima. There was a noise reading taken in New Berrima of 75dB, however this is close to the existing Boral Cement works and does not reflect the potential noise impacts there will be for the villages of Medway and Berrima
- Potential coal dust and diesel emissions, which have the potential to be detrimental to air quality for the residents of Berrima, New Berrima and Medway Villages, as well as Bowral, Burradoo and Moss Vale (considering prevailing westerly wind conditions).

## **REMOVAL OF TREES AND NATIVE HABITAT**

Residual or unavoidable impacts include the removal of 64 paddock trees and 17 dead trees, which provided habitat for threatened species.

## **HUME COAL/BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT**

- Traffic DELAYS at 17 level crossings across the Highlands, adding an extra 24 minutes of train crossing delays, every 24 hours. 2 level crossings will be most affected - Sheepwash Road and the Illawarra Highway at Robertson, which carries major volumes of traffic daily.