

- The potential for unacceptable risk/delays for emergency services vehicles, should they be caught up in delays at level crossings.
- Additional noise generated from the extra 8 trains crossing the Highlands, heading to Wollongong every 24 hour period, 365 days a year.

## **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING AND THE HUME COAL PROJECT**

### **Construction phase of the mine:**

Hume Coal admits that residents will experience increased noise as well as air pollution in its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### **Psychological distress and associated disempowerment:**

What will be done to assure people, whose land is directly affected by the Hume Coal mine proposal? Will they will be adequately compensated for the stress, loss of lifestyle, income, and/or failure of water bores? Who is the arbitrator in such cases and are there any rights of appeal? The community has no confidence in Hume Coal, which has not once conducted community consultation in Berrima itself, despite having promised to do so. While a shop was opened in Berrima, it is rarely manned and is perceived by locals to be nothing more than a deliberate attempt to 'break' the spirit of the 93% of residents opposed to the project, by making them perceive that the mine has already arrived and that its approval is a certainty.

## **POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS NOT MENTIONED IN THE HUME COAL PROJECT**

- Potential risk of death and injuries to miners
- The combination of an untested mining method (pine feather) and an unconventional method of storing large quantities of mine water underground is likely to result in serious operational safety risks
- Various safety risks may lead to the transfer of excess mine water to the surface creating a need to discharge into watercourses. Hume Coal has not assessed this issue or proposed a water treatment plant. This is an extremely worrying abrogation of duty.
- Road and rail accidents increased by potential increases in traffic/rail movements
- Potential for water (Aquifer) contamination
- Mental health, anxiety and depression associated with changes in the social fabric/amenity and overall environment for close by townships and residents directly affected by the mine proposal i.e. Berrima, New Berrima, Medway and the residents of Sutton Forrest – under which the mine will be constructed

## **MINING OPERATIONS AND SUBSIDENCE**

- During the life of the mine, what parameters dictate the location of ventilation shafts in respect to safe distances from residential and built-up communities?
- During the life of the mine, can it be guaranteed that coal will not need to be transported by road?
- Given the unique geological structure of the Hawkesbury Sandstone in the coal seam, how can the mine proceed safely, without impacts on land owners in areas that have not had exploratory bores drilled, even though these areas are within the mine's exploration licence?