

Hume Coal Project Support

Coal continues to play an integral role in Australia's economic success and our national prosperity. Wollongong based steel maker (BlueScope) relies on the coal industry to continue to manufacture high quality steel and as a result maintain thousands of skilled jobs for our local community. This manufacturing industry has been and remains critically important to ensuring the supply of steel to further processes and value add for numerous downstream manufacturers across numerous industries in Australia.

The commercial reality is, these industries rely on coal and if we don't mine this resource, they will import it from someone who does. Australian coal has lower sulphur content and a higher calorific value, meaning it is kinder to the environment in comparison to the imported alternative which would otherwise be used.

Hence, restricting coal production in Australia is bad for the environment, once we recognize industry will import an alternative. Further, if we close industries like steel manufacturing the same principle applies, we simply import steel from less capable, more environmentally harmful manufacturing nations. Put simply, the chemical reaction of steel making doesn't improve when it is made in another country.

The vocal minority do not understand, nor are tasked, to navigate these commercial realities. Sadly, this lack of understanding would see a detrimental economic, employment and environmental result if their extremist views were actioned.

The employment of hundreds coal miners and associated industries are a risk if the project does not go ahead. These individuals' salaries are significant and the flow on effect through their respective spending is relied upon by local businesses. Further, transport companies in road and rail, rely on coal for continued work and local prosperity.

I support the Hume Coal project and I ask the IPC decision makers to do the same in the interest of the people of the Southern Highlands, NS and Australia.