

Supporting submission for the Hume Coal project

Coal is one of Australia's most important and valuable exports.

Our national, state and local economy relies heavily on coal mining so coal mining benefits everyone in Australia.

Coal mining provides coal for steel making, cement manufacture and generates over 80 per cent of the electricity for the three eastern states of Australia.

Fuel coal from Australian coal mines is ideal for electricity production and it has fewer impurities, such as sulphur, than coal from other countries.

There have been over twenty collieries mining coal in the Wingecarribee Shire over many decades. For example, Berrima Colliery began mining coal in 1924 and closed in 2013 which is 89 years of coal mining at one mine. Berrima Colliery had supplied the Berrima Cement Works since 1926 so now the cement works has to truck coal through the Blue Mountains from a coal mine north of Lithgow.

Anti-mining activists do not appear to be aware of the extensive coal mining in the Southern Highlands since 1867. They spread fear and hate without any factual basis.

The employment of hundreds of direct employees in the coal mine is at stake at the Hume Coal project. More than 300 direct employees living locally would be employed at the coal mine and their employment will benefit many others. The federal government's tables of multiplier effects show that more than three times as many indirect jobs are created for every person employed in a coal mine.

The coal mined by the Hume Coal project will be transported by rail, utilising the Berrima Branch Line. The state government benefits by its charges for the rail transport of coal. Road safety is enhanced by rail transport of bulk products such as coal instead of having more coal trucks on our roads.

I fully support the Hume Coal project for all of these reasons.