**Submission AGAINST the proposed Hume Coal Project and Associated rail extension (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171)**

**Submitted by : Carl McGann, Caroline Hill, Cassidy and Hugo**

**Address : 334 Medway Road, Medway, 2577**

Dear Commissioner and Minister,

Given the numerous major concerns raised by all government and other agencies and experts in relation to the environmental impact as well as mining techniques and associated transportation pollution it seems like a rationale and common sense determination that the IPC has already determined to recommend that the project should NOT proceed.

However notwithstanding these previous determinations and overwhelming evidence that these projects are not in the interests of the community or Government or environment we are faced with other IPC public hearing commencing 12 July.

As a so called “DOT” wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate my absolute objection to the proposal as I have done in 3 earlier submissions.

I have work in financial services as an investor which necessitates deep research and analysis of industries and technologies which has provided me a better understanding than most of the energy technologies which are continuing to evolve rapidly, the global demand for clean energy and the challenges associated with polluting energy compared with clean energy. In fact so called ESG (environmental, Social, Governance) is the largest driving force in capital allocation in the world as the world embraces the climate change challenge and associated technologies and energy sources to support the move to a zero emissions world.

Environmental damage (not to mention the impacts on human health and well being) is the single biggest challenge facing the world and the solution should be provided by the rapid advancement and commercialisation of clean energy alternatives (solar, batteries, wind, etc).

Having worked in China I have been exposed and seen first hand how damaging a lack of foresight on dirty energy can create catastrophic consequences which can take much longer time periods to rectify (if at all) than they did to create. There is no doubt that in the fullness of time the costs to repair damage created by old and dirty energy (including devastating human health consequences) will be vastly higher than the short term money grab that created the problem. If the Chinese Government can see the errors of their ways how can we in Australia not!

My objection is absolute and includes the following specific concerns:

**Water Catchment** – not only is this area an agricultural area it is also a key catchment area for Sydney. Of course Hume Coal say nothing will happen however if and when it does it will be too late – there will be no going back. This proposal does not just affect the 50,000 or so residents around the highlands but also all of Sydney. This surely is a risk too big to take.

**Water Supply for Residents** – it is clear that regardless of the damage to the water quality there will be a massive impact on the groundwater in the area with water sources being depleted altogether and ground water sinking up to 150m over a 200sqm to 300sqm area. The experience of the Boral mine would suggest that no one knows whether or how quickly these impacts recover but everyone knows the impact will be devasting and last for generations.

**Historic Township (Preservation for ALL Australians)** – Berrima is a historic township that dates back to the early non indigenous settlers and is recognised a treasure that should be preserved and conserved for generations to come. This proposal will definitely compromise and damage Berrima and indeed the entire highlands should it proceed. It is in Australia’s national interests that such unique places are preserved and conserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

**Community Support** – it is abundantly clear that the majority if not the entire community is opposed to this proposal. Surely given the community whom must live with the mine is best placed to way up the pros and cons and have made their view abundantly clear.

**Mine Technology** – Hume Coal have been very vocal that this mine will use new technologies that will minimise impact, be more efficient and operate almost like it is not there! Of course this ignores the 6 story coal piles, the 24 by 7 operations, the light pollution and dust pollution. Also recently they determined to reorient the mine face away from the freeway “just in case” there was a problem (read explosion) it would be unlikely to impact the freeway. Surprisingly this does not provide a great deal of comfort over their so called new technology.

**Economic Benefits V Risks** – There has been a lot of PR about economic benefits however like all mines any benefits to the community are short term (construction phase only) as all mines are heavily automated. On the other hand the region is a thriving and sustainable community and economy that is a mix of tourism, agricultural and service based industries. The region does not need and in any case will not get any sustainable economic benefits from this proposed mine. Considering the huge known and unknown environmental risks and costs to the community which will last for generations it is clear that this is a situation where Korea are exporting the risk and environmental damage to Australia whilst importing the economic benefits for themselves!

**Direct Community Impacts** – Last but not least is the issue of the impact on the community who will be directly impacted by the proposal such as us. We have owned our property (“DOT” property) for over 14 years (pre dating this proposal) having purchased a “country” lifestyle property as part of our longer term retirement plan for ourselves and somewhere for our extended family to gather for family catch ups and events such as Christmas and school holidays. Since purchasing the property we have invested a considerable amount into improving the land and the property.

The coal “mountain” will be 6 stories high with conveyor belts running either side and will be both visible and audible from our property. It will be less than a kilometre away. This coal mountain will be an eye soar that will blight the country side and bring with it noise and dust pollution which will ruin our once pristine environment and that of the entire Medway community that will be most heavily impacted by the proposed project. Further the proposal is a for a 24 by 7 hour operation which clearly shows no regard whatsoever for any community members impacted.

We have invested and planned for our long term retirement at our “Wembley” property and this proposed project will turn our dreams into a nightmare and one which is already causing us considerable anxiety and will likely result in longer term anxiety and stress given we will be trapped. Emotional and physical health damage will be compounded by financial damage that will ensure that our once beautiful country property is ruined and left worthless.

Kind regards,

Carl, Caroline, Cassidy and Hugo