

I wish to express my total opposition to the proposed Hume Coal Mine Project as documented in their Environmental Impact Statement (SSD 7172 and SSD 7171).

I oppose the Hume Coal project for several reasons :

- The Greenfield site chosen for the proposal is in an area widely regarded for its rural land uses, small-scale agriculture, scenic landscapes and tourism.
- The Proposal presents clear impact to the regions water resources.
- The Groundwater impacts as disclosed in the EIS are significant and unacceptable, including the detrimental effects on 118 registered private Bores, which will take 72 years post mining activity to repair and is beyond catastrophic to those that rely on them for water for the agricultural endeavours.
- Groundwater issues are inadequately reported or modelled in the EIS and there is a lack of data to support an assessment of the impacts of the proposal on surface water and groundwater.
- The Proposal presents clear impact across the regions water resources, that will reach far beyond the mine footprint.
- The impact of the proposed coal stockpiles and mine operation on the local environment and the amenity of the residents of Berrima and the greater Southern Highlands should be enough to warrant the refusal of the project. There are no safe levels of Coal dust in human health.
- Environmental and social impacts of the project must be considered as per EPA sec75J I believe this has not been adequately addressed.
- Potential adverse impacts on the drinking water catchment by contamination of local streams, by discharging polluted water from the mine affecting water quality in the Medway Rivulet & Oldbury Creek, both being tributaries of the Wingecarribee River.
- The Hume Coal proposal is a highly inappropriate development given the Highlands unique environment and the project presents a totally unacceptable risk to this area.
- The DPIE believes the proposal is NOT in the public interest, that although some economic benefits for NSW, the benefits of the project could not be achieved without significant adverse impacts on the environment and the local community, and as such the Department's findings were that the project is not in the public interest and should not be approved. I totally with that conclusion.

I implore the Commission to uphold the refusal of the DPIE.

Heidi Dick

Sutton Forest NSW

