

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 have lived in Sutton Forest for 20 years, my family raises livestock on our property, this requires the use of our Bore for water to our animals, particularly in times of drought as seen most recently, when the dams on our property all but dried up.

The bore was essential to our animals survival during this time and particularly through the impact of the bush fires of 2019/2020, where we were directly impacted by embers the night of January 4th 2020, had we not had access to a reliable water source we could have suffered from loss of property and stock.

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 socioeconomic Impacts of this proposal are far reaching, and has significantly impacted the values of house prices in the immediately impacted area of Sutton Forest.
- The impact on emotional and mental health in this area has been significant, people have been living with this proposal for too many years and should it go ahead, a vast number of people will have little choice to leave the area to preserve their health and mental well being, but at a huge loss in the value of their homes.
- Environmental and social impacts of the project must be considered as per EPA sec75J I believe this has not been adequately addressed
- 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, ours being one, which will take 72 years posts mining activity to repair 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 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.
- 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 site for the proposal is NOT in the public interest the IPC should not grant approval, 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 agree 100% with that conclusion.

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

John Dick
Sutton Forest NSW