



19 July 2021

Independent Planning Commission

Protect Our Water Alliance

Submission: OBJECTION to the Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171)

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this project.

Protect Our Water Alliance (POWA) was formed in early 2019 in response to growing community awareness and anger at ongoing damaging mining beneath Greater Sydney's water catchment. Located on unceded Dharawal Country in Wollongong, POWA is affiliated with grassroots groups and environmental organisations across the Illawarra, Southern Highlands, and Greater Sydney regions.

POWA advocates for protection of the Water Catchment, and calls for a ban on mining in it. POWA objects to the Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project.

We note that the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment do not support the application of Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project, and we are in agreement with the Department's view that this planning application should not be approved. We note that the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and the Environment has reported that

"The project is ... located within the upper reaches of Sydney's drinking water catchment" and that "there remains unacceptable uncertainty about the potential surface water impacts on Sydney's drinking water catchment, given the mine design risks and the lack of a contingency strategy in the event that surface water discharge is required."

Protect Our Water Alliance commends the recommendation of the Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment that this application should be refused. Further, Protect Our Water Alliance recommends that the NSW Government should undertake the closure and rehabilitation of all mines in Greater Sydney's water catchment. There are now viable alternatives to both thermal coal used for power generation and metallurgical coal used for steelmaking and an immediate need to end the extraction of fossil fuels and to prioritise the protection of Greater Sydney's water catchment.

Refusal of consent for this damaging project would be the best outcome for the people of New South Wales.