

Commissioners

I wish to object to the Hume Coal project SSD7172 and SSD7171.

I am a resident of Berrima and have lived here for 19 years.

I strongly believe this is the wrong location for another Greenfield coal mine in our state.

The proposed mine is on the edge of an historic Georgian village unique on the Australian mainland. The region is renowned for its beautiful agricultural country, lying in the heart of some of the most productive grazing land close to Sydney and a significant tourist region that contributes to the local economy.

The mine is to be built within a pristine aquifer which supplies the region's agricultural industry and is within the headwaters of the catchment which feeds Sydney's largest water reservoir, Warragamba Dam.

The unsuitability of a mine in this location is further exacerbated by the defined risks and known and unknown issues that this proposal presents.

. the impact on ground water with at least 118 bores impacted over the life of the mine and the uncertainty of make good arrangements to compensate landowners.

. the impact on the aquifer from the unforeseen effects of mining and the impact on catchment waterways of any failure to be able to store waste water underground

. the risk of the untried and untested nature of the mining method and the impact of any failure of this method.

Hume Coal's response to management of these uncertainties is unacceptable and inconsistent with the precautionary principle.

Nothing the proponents of the mine have provided deals with these risks and they remain real.

These risk undermine the fundamental benefits of royalties and employment that underline the economic rationale for the mine.

The risks entailed in the mining method place significant questions over the economics of the mine and therefore the financial returns.

They also pose a threat to the safety of the mine employees and in a worse case scenario could create an environmental disaster.

The employment opportunities of the mine will be offset by the slow erosion of tourism in this part of the Southern Highlands as the industrialized natures of the mining activity make a visual and environmental impact. The present growth in tourism infrastructure and employment will decline.

In summary this is the wrong mine in the wrong place.

Please do not approve this project.