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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171) Additional Material
Date: Monday, 2 August 2021 2:03:27 PM

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the DPIE response.

I would like to take note of the DPIE comments:

1) Potential Traffic Disruptions:

"However, there are 5 more **significant** level crossings on **higher trafficked roads**, including the level crossings at:

- Suttor Road at Moss Vale;
- Sheepwash Road at Glenquarry;
- Illawarra Road at Robertson;
- Meryla Street at Robertson; and
- Fountaindale Road at Robertson. "

You would expect DPIE to have provided some traffic numbers here to put it into context for the commissioners.

However, they have worded it to suggest that these are heavily trafficked areas.

They are not. In comparison with any urban/ suburban road they are very lightly trafficked. Seriously how are the crossings at Suttor Rd, Meryla St and Fountaindale Rd ever to be considered significant level crossings on higher trafficked roads - is it a total of 100 cars per day?

Compared to most places in NSW they are not highly trafficked roads and they do not have many other traffic delays points. Furthermore there are existing safety signs and devices at the crossings that would cover the additional train movements.

2) Drawdown Impacts

"the Department maintains that it is the number of affected landholders, the greenfield nature of the project area, the shallow nature of the mine and the aquifers, and the practicality of making good these impacts in a manner that is acceptable to landholders, that is the issue. **To expand, matters of peak inflows, drawdown and recovery must be taken into context of the project location and affected receivers and receiving environment".**

In this statement DPIE shows inconsistency in its assessment.

This area is not a high producing agricultural area - there is no BSAL. Most are "hobby farmers". The concern about the quantity of ground water from the Office of water is so

low - these bores are unmetered.

Most of the impacted do not actually rely on bore water - the Southern Highlands is one of the highest areas for rainfall in NSW and most are on town water and their livestock have access to nearby streams and creeks. The land is mainly used for raising livestock and can be quickly and effectively destocked as per usual farming practices in drier conditions. Drilling new bores, reconditioning pumps, putting in larger pumps and lowering pumps are common agricultural practices. As are putting in tanks and building dams. There is no reason why Hume Coal cannot supply the same quality and quantity of water.

Make good contracts are also common business in mining. There is nothing unusual about this area to make this unacceptable.

Has anyone provided information regarding the water filling station on the corner of Oldbury Rd and Illawarra highway? Worse case scenario? Hume Coal to provide emergency water from here? It would be easy.

3) Voluntary Planning Agreement

The VPA offer should have been made public knowledge and should have been included in its assessment report as part of the benefits of the project. It is a considerable amount of money and would do considerable good for the LGA.

4) Tourism, agriculture and food production

As stated above, the Southern Highland farms are not high producers of agriculture - except Hume Coal's farms. Almost all are raising livestock. They are not reliant on their bores. The Southern highlands receives high levels of rainfall. Most have dams, access to streams and creeks and tanks, can destock and generally are on town water.

The concern for bores and ground water in the area is low as they are not even required to be metered.

A simple condition in the approval, that states that Hume Coal must make good all ground water impacts and provide ready access to the same quantity and quality of water that the farmer had prior to mining commences, provided the landowner enters into a reasonable agreement that includes initial measurement of their groundwater quality, usage and supply, and preferred means of make good or compensation. Not that insurmountable.

I hope this helps in the IPC determination.

Regards

Craig Brackenbury

