

**From:** [Pete](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Hume Coal Project, Additional Material  
**Date:** Monday, 2 August 2021 4:46:05 PM

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Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171)

Submission regarding new material provided to the Independent Planning Commission:

Dear Panel,

Regarding Item 2

"In both DPIE's preliminary assessment report and final assessment reports, the Department states that the predicted drawdown impacts on the aquifer would be the most significant for any mining project that has been considered in NSW."

"The project is predicted to have significant impacts on a highly productive groundwater aquifer as classified under the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy. In this regard, the project is predicted to result in drawdown exceeding the minimal harm considerations in the policy at up to 94 registered privately-owned groundwater bores based on Hume Coal's 67th percentile predictions, or up to 118 registered bores based on the 90th percentile predictions."

The proposed groundwater draw-down is a significant risk to agricultural production. Considering that the warming climate is increasing the impact of droughts, which in turn are greatly reducing agricultural yields, any project that significantly impacts water availability should be rejected. This year, crop yields have been hugely impacted by drought in North and South America, Central Asia, Turkey and Ghana. The United Nations states that world hunger has been on the rise since 2016, and the World Food Programme states that 4 countries are in famine, and a further 41 million people are in danger of famine. Australia has been lucky that a La Niña phase of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation has provided good rainfall over the last 18 months, but the next El Niño phase, combined with the warming climate, is likely to bring reduced rainfall and a risk of drought. For Australia's security, our priority must be food production and water conservation.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Eden

Resident of Illawarra/Shoalhaven