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**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Cc:** [Voni Leighton](#); [Ben Leighton](#); [Callie Leighton](#); [Charley Leighton](#)  
**Subject:** HUME COAL PROJECT AND BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 3 August 2021 2:48:14 PM

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To IPCP re HUME COAL PROJECT AND BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT (SSD 7172 & SSD 7171)

As a local resident Leighton Brae [REDACTED] Sutton Forrest 2577 and on behalf of Mrs Leighton "essential health care worker" at Vitalis Health and Homecare, our son Benjamin Leighton and his girlfriend Georgia, our son who is serving as an officer in RAEME in Albury and our daughter who will return from a gap year teaching in a school in the UK at the end of the year we border the proposed Hume Coal project and sit on top of the proposed tunnelling.

Mrs Leighton and I have served the NSW community in business, health and not for profit for more than 30 years and have retired to our 15 acres in the Highlands. We have got involved with the local community as well as supporting local businesses to cultivate our 15 acres. One of the attractions is the beautiful quiet countryside and a deep bore on our property. We understand how necessary heating is and are not anti-coal and don't suffer from "not in our backyard" syndrome. However. this is not the place to have a Greenfields coal site.

This proposal is not in the public interest and not in the locals interest. It will have significant social, economic and environmental negative impacts on what is a farming and increasingly NSW and Australian tourism based economy. The project area is zoned for environmental purposes (E3 zone - approximately 70%) and forestry purposes (RU3 Zone - approximately 26%), with smaller areas zoned for rural landscape and infrastructure. The objectives of the E3 zone are aimed at protecting existing historic, ecological, cultural and aesthetic values. Similarly, the objectives of the rural landscape zone are focussed on maintaining the "rural landscape character" and "encouraging sustainable primary industry." Put simply this is our home and a future home of our children, grandchildren and their children.

*Specifically* the project would have significant impacts on a highly productive groundwater aquifer, in particular drawdown impacts at up to 118 privately-owned groundwater bores and specifically our own bore which we drink from. I would imagine the significant groundwater drawdown impacts are unlikely to be able to be reduced further due to the nature of the geology and hydrogeology of the area. Specifically our bore we can drink directly from and with water the future scarce resource I cannot think of one good reason to risk this precious natural resource.

Traffic in the area, a Forrest road would be both dangerous and harmful in a semi rural area. A mine is not in anyway compatible with other land uses in the area.

Close to 100% of the local community is against this for the above and other very human reasons. This is a rural area and noise, visual, health and cultural issues are important. In the current covid environment one of the great economic benefits to areas like the Highlands is NSW and Australian based tourism around food, wine, activity and the beautiful countryside, landscape, gardens etc. This proposed development would detract from much of this and cause an economic loss and loss of local income and jobs greater than any potential economic gain.

I understand for all those reasons there is strong opposition to the project from the local and broader community and specifically our family at Leighton Brae 100% oppose the project.

I believe I'm a respected sensible voice in both the local and NSW business, social and wider community. If I can contribute to any further input around this matter please reach out directly.

Kind regards

Jon

Jon M Leighton OAM

Leighton Brae



Sutton Forrest 2577