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To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Additional Material - Hume Coal project: Public Comment
Date: Friday, 6 August 2021 1:08:55 PM

The Panel

Independent Planning Commission, NSW

Dear Members of the Panel,

My initial response to the Additional Material provided for public comment, is one of surprise, disbelief even. The range of questioning is itself, an indication of the depth and breadth of impact this mine would have on lives and livelihoods in the Southern Highlands. I write as a resident of the area for over thirty years, with three generations of family now living and working here.

The two areas of Additional Material that I will comment on are Air and Water. I use capital letters to name them as they are: essentials for life.

Air Quality: This ranges from the mood-lifting breath of fresh air, smelling of different vegetation as the seasons change, to the relief of knowing this air carries health to our bodies and those of our children and animals, domestic, agricultural and wild. Despite coverings on wagons (those coverings we've all seen blowing in the wind as trucks tear along highways), or even more elaborate ones, coal dust is fine and the smell of it permeates everything. After living in the English midlands for twelve months, I know only too well what that smells like. It gets stuck in the nostrils, blown into everywhere a wind can take it. So - think about the August winds in the Highlands...not nice to have coal dust on those winds.

Water Quality: Much has been written about water flow and quantity, which is of course vital. However, I would like to raise the question of Quality. There are many water bores in the area, with taste and quality reflecting the minerals in the rock layer of the aquifer into which the bore is drilled. After spending thirty years on a farm, I am well aware of the importance of that water quality. The main concern with mining is the fact that at some point, despite best practice mining, that aquifer which holds our precious water will be breached, and chemicals and toxins will contaminate the water. **THIS CONTAMINATION IS NOT REVERSIBLE**, as many scientific articles on the subject, from several countries, have made clear.

At a Council meeting some years ago I asked the Hume Coal/Posco representative what the company would do in the event of such an accident...? His reply was that Hume Coal would not have any accidents.

Again, my experience in a UK coal mining area tells me that alas, this is not realistic. Accidents, by definition, are what happens in spite of everyone's best intentions and planning.

In conclusion, I ask that a different view be taken of the Southern Highlands, one in which Air and Water are recognised as this region's most valuable resources, not

coal. That being so, it follows that these resources must be protected from the coal mining process, to prevent the life of our land and its people being significantly and permanently spoiled.

Yours sincerely,

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