

**From:** [Ben Rodgers](#)  
**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Hume Coal Rail Line Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, 8 August 2021 11:14:59 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My wife and I are residents of Apple Street, Berrima.

Mr. O'Donoghue, Director of Resource Assessments, in his Submission to the Independent Planning Commission of NSW dated 22 July 2021 ("Submissions") raised concerns with the additional burden of Hume Coal on the rail line do not take into account the increasing industrialisation of the Enterprise Corridor, through which the Berrima Cement branch line runs. The Berrima Branch Line has a practical operating capacity of 40 train movements per day (20 in each direction). Hume Coal's assessment assumes that there are currently 26 train movements per day on the line, but this does NOT include the Austral brickworks and Masonry plant mentioned below, or the contemplated plastics recycling factory and electric vehicle factory, also mentioned below.

In the coming year, the Austral brickworks will move from Bowral to New Berrima in the Enterprise Corridor (adjacent to their shale quarry). The DA for the massive Austral Masonry Plant was approved on 25 September 2019, and will be constructed in the coming years. Both of these Austral factories will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the huge amounts of materials to be brought in and out of the sites will inevitably lead to pressure to use the rail line, rather trucks on the road. In addition, there is now a proposal to build (1) a plastics recycling factory, and (2) an electric vehicle factory in the Enterprise Corridor. These together with future heavy industry will place a very large burden on the rail line.

The cumulative impact of these developments, together with the proposed Hume Coal train shipments will severely impact the rail line.

There is also concern of the negative impact of the groundwater aquifer mentioned in the Submissions.

We believe that the proposed Hume Coal project will have significant adverse impacts on the tourism industry in the region, which is increasingly the largest employer in many towns in the region. We argue that Hume Coal's attempt to equate the job losses from the tourism industry if the proposal were to proceed with the increase in coal related employment as specious and ignoring the humans involved. Surely, Hume Coal does not believe that those currently

working in the tourism industry could be re-assigned to work in the coal industry!

To gauge the level of resident objections to the proposed Hume Coal project, one needs only drive through Berrima and see the plethora of signs in the front gardens of residents objecting to the coal project.

Regards,

Benjamin Rodgers

Producer/Songwriter/Musician

