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**To:** [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Submission to IPC - Hume Coal & Berrima Rail Projects - New Material Response  
**Date:** Sunday, 8 August 2021 7:24:32 PM

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this material.

My focus is on the inevitable future population growth of the region/lease area and consequences on existing and future landholders and residences arising from mine subsidence risk and groundwater drawdown risk.

The growth and ambitions for the area must be considered, not just the current baseline, in assessing the impact of the mine over its projected life time.

#### Mine Subsidence

The Departments response clearly illustrates the heightened danger arising from the shallow depth of the Hume Coal operations. There is a significant development pace in the lease area and this will continue at a robust rate throughout the operational life. Existing properties are not built to standards that can withstand subsidence and current standards are likely to remain the relevant standards for some years into the mine life.

The mine is too shallow and too many properties, businesses and households are already in the areas that will be affected by subsidence and fracture.

#### Groundwater drawdown

This has always been the critical issue with the mine. Again the excellent graphics in the Department's response show that the risk of extensive drawdown is high. The **severity** of the risk is high for residents in that we do not wish to extend our bores below mine level or pay the extra pumping capital and operating costs of lifting water from greater depth. Nor do we wish to engage in constant negotiation with Hume Coal over inevitably fragile water make up provisions. The **consequences** of that deeper drawdown on asset values, farm and horticulture business viability and potable water resources is also high. The 2020 fire season demonstrated the value of a property bore and certainly saved our house at the time of the fire attack on Exeter in January of that year.

Further, climate science is clear that south east Australia will experience a dryer climate as global temperatures rise.

We cannot afford, in a financial, business or lifestyle sense, to risk jeopardising our water security.

Please do not allow the Hume Coal projects to proceed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these statements.

David Williamson

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