

Daria Ball

██████████ Moss Vale NSW 2577

Date: 9 August 2021

To: **The Independent Planning Commission**

Re: **Second referral of the Hume Coal Project: Request for information**

By email: ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Casey Joshua

Dear Commissioners,

I appreciate the chance to comment on the response you have received from the DPIE regarding the questions on notice that were put to the Department following the recent Public Hearing. I make comment on some of the matters addressed.

Question 2. Groundwater.

I believe the DPIE has given a thoroughly researched reply to your question and I fully support all the points they have made.

Question 4. The Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

Hume could simply have followed correct procedures as both the DPIE and the Wingecarribee Shire Council have on this matter. The approach they chose indicates poor judgement on their part.

Question 5. Impacts on tourism, agriculture, and food production.

As someone who farmed in the area for almost 30 years I am convinced that the water issues alone will have a negative impact on farming. Having seen the disastrous draining of aquifers in the vicinity of the Medway Colliery and the subsequent effects on adjacent farms I find it impossible to believe a better result can be achieved by Hume Coal. Water is the life blood of farms and without guaranteed supply failure will follow.

Question 6. Emplacement of coal washery rejects underground.

Hume Coal have not presented any information on test work about the effective and continuous placement of 100% of the polluted reject material underground over the life of the mine. Their statement that it is "common practice" in coal and metalliferous mines is questionable to say the least. My view is that this will have a negative effect on the aquifers and ground water pollution will result.

Yours sincerely,

Daria Ball

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