

5th August 2021

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW

Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street Sydney NSW 2577

Attn: Jocelyn Chan

[REDACTED]
Berrima NSW 2577

**Re: Hume Coal Project SSD - 7172 – Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171-
OBJECTION**

I refer to 'Additional Material' regarding this matter as issued by your office by email on 2nd August.

I am a professional Food Scientist working in sectors such as the Agri-food field. A key driver in our industry is to promote a 'clean and healthy' image as the traceability of food products and ingredients to their origin is increasingly in demand by retailers and consumers. Any elements of contamination or impact on health and wellness to this picturesque region that is associated with greenfield mining, whether through dust or affiliated with water contamination concerns or other risks stemming from railing coal to port will severely socially, environmentally, and economically taint this region.

Whilst there have been comments made by Hume Coal that coal dust will be managed, I strongly reject this claim. I have had first-hand experience reviewing coal dust suppressants; as a means to control coal dust movement. Coal dust is not only unsightly, it has an accumulative deleterious effect on the health of all living things.

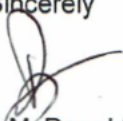
The basis of my concern with the effectiveness of chemical based suppressant is that it only covers the top layer of material (coal in this case). The suppressant materials are not flexible, so should the coal material move around, as is highly expected when in transit, the coating will crack up and dust will be released. Hard covering carriages may partly help control dust release, but my concerns are loading and other leakage points. Carriage covering is not fool proof either and given the considerable distance from mine to port proposed, there will inevitably be a build-up of coal contamination issues along the route.

Furthermore, concern is expressed with the proposed 700 metre coal stacks at the coal mine area. Chemical based coatings will not be effective at the point of filling the carriages. The alternative suppressant used is a water spray. However, as the material continually needs to be kept moist (water wise costly) and there has been cases associated with coal minerals leaking into the ground at the site of the piles.

I draw your attention also to the numerous comments made at the hearings about wind movements in our region. It is not uncommon to have 60-90Km south-westerly winds which will blow the coal stack material directly into Berrima Township and as I am located at the higher outer area of the township this will directly impact on my agri-research fields.

Our region is fast becoming a food bowl (**food delicatessen**) to the growing regions of Sydney and the world with Badgery Creek airport coming line. Please don't allow these proposals to proceed.

Yours Sincerely



Duncan McDonald

B App. Science (Food Technology), MBA, FAIFST, GAICD