

From: [Peter](#)
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Hume coal mine SSD7172 and SSD 7171
Date: Monday, 9 August 2021 3:51:28 PM

To

Mr Steve Barry

Planning Director

Independent Planning Commission of NSW

Mr Barry

In answer to the second call for submissions in regard to the Hume Coal Mine Project SSD 7172 & SSD 7171

Second Referral Request

The main problem I wish to comment on is ground water and surface water used by this project.

Australia is in fact the driest inhabited continent so we must be very careful when allocating water to projects.

From notes from the Independent Planning Commission of NSW “In both DPIE’s preliminary assessment report and final assessment reports, the Department states that the predicted drawdown impacts on the aquifer would be the most significant for any mining project that has been considered in NSW.”

A few years ago, a NSW Chief Scientist’s Report showed that two coal mines in the southern highlands were shown to be losing 8 million litres of water a day down to the abyss. Throughout the Southern Highlands, creeks and swamps have disappeared. This structure of digging, mining and shoring could well go wrong and lose water to us.

It appears to me that Hume think water is just water but if it is contaminated with coal dust, dirt, oil and other by-products of mining it may well be less useful. In fact, it will be polluting.

Over the last few years, we have seen a definite change in the environment due to climate change and so data collected a few years ago will not be as representative of rainfall in the future. The figures on the water inflows and usage appear to be both at the limit of optimistic estimations of environmental inputs and so the promises to make good are probably impossible to supply.

So, the assumptions and calculations are likely to be out. If this happens the productivity of the area will decline for everyone, probably with the exception of the mine. I don't think the "make good" promise is very useful.

Changing the conversation to the rail transport from the mine to the port. Blithely, Hume announce that there will only be an extra 8 train movements per day taking an (optimistic) three minutes for each train at each of 16 or 17 railway crossings. Three minutes is a long time if you are in the back of an ambulance!

Hume makes a fuss that they will donate \$2.1 million to the State Government. Level crossings are dangerous. As the population in the area increases there will be overbridges built at a number of rail crossings each costing taxpayers \$2.1 million each or more.

There offer does not seem worthwhile to me. Over the medium-term Australia will build many solar and wind farms, some in this area creating many more jobs than are in the coal industry.

Peter Alway

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