

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

REGARDING SSD 7172 and SSD 7171- second referral .

Dear Commissioner,

I wish to express my opposition to the above proposal for the following reasons:

The proposed mine represents an enormous threat to:

- The environment: The project is within 100 meters of a natural water source, a wildlife source; encroaches on a national park environment, crown land and vital eco systems.
- The residents of Berrima and the surrounding districts. This is an area with an enormous number of retirement villages. (10 over 55 villages in Bowral and Moss Vale alone and two large care homes dealing with dementia patients). And this number excludes two hospitals.
- The Economic stability of the Berrima District: At a time when the world is moving away from using fossil fuels, to offer employment to workers who, due to lack of demand, could easily find themselves un-employed and jobless, is both shortsighted and heartless.

EPBC Ref: 2015/7526

- Hume Coal has to transport coal, extracted for the proposed mine, from Berrima to Port Kembla
- Without an initial consent for the Berrima Rail Project, the whole rationale for Hume Coal progressing with its proposal has no basis.

Negative impacts of the Berrima Rail Project

- Noise
- Coal dust

Negative impacts of living so close to this proposed mine

- We have lived, from 1968, less than a kilometre from a proposed operation that will operate 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.
- Coal dust from these trains will dramatically affect the health of everyone: from small children to people like us, the elderly.
- The noise from eight trains crossing the Old Hume Highway, will be considerable: apparently each train being approx 1 kilometer long

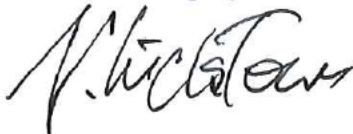
Environmental impacts of coal tailing waste on aquifer water

- pollution of Sydney drinking water
- Backfilling of empty coal voids will negatively impacts on groundwater and land subsidence due to overburden.
- As a result of the use of the water needed to operate this mine, 118 local bores will be adversely affected by this proposal. These bores are needed for agricultural enterprises; vineyards; and general household usage.

Effects on tourism

- The heritage village of Berrima has taken out the top prize in the state's prestigious Top Tourism Town Awards.
- It is difficult to think that most tourists would flock to a coal mining town. As with the Hunter Valley, Berrima would have few, if any attraction to offer. Historic homes, covered in coal dust, is not an attraction to either overseas or local visitors.

These are just some of the many reasons why this project is not in the public interest and we trust that the IPC will rule out this project.



Ann & Nicholas Lidstone

