

Dear Commissioners of the Independent Planning Commission

30<sup>th</sup> June.

I write in reference to SSD 7172 and SSD 7171.

This matter has been dealt with in the most exhaustive and exhausting manner. There have been numerous enquiries, numerous submissions and endless calls for evidence from all interested parties.

I accept there must be a drawn out 'due process' but the time must soon come to make a final, un-prosecutable decision.

What we must avoid here is the failure of a democratic process to finally make a decision. This commission needs to take care to not be trapped by 'kicking the can down the road' owing to the prevarication of officials here and in Korea (ROK).

There is ample evidence of the hazards this coal mine application will have on both water quality and availability. The evidence for all to see is on display from the existing 'moth balled' mine at Medway. This fact won't change despite the propensity to hold endless enquiries.

The districts sub water is highly variable. I lived for 30 years at Comfort Hill, near the Canyonleigh Crossroads, where our Bore was approximately 120 feet deep and was very heavily contaminated with Ferrous ions. We also lived at High Range for ten years where the 70 metre bore was again heavily contaminated with ions; yet less than three kilometers to the west there is a well head where Mt Franklin water draws off highly potable water completely fit for immediate human consumption.

So geographically, there are bores separated by <18 kilometres with similar water, yet between them is water fit for immediate consumption. What this is telling you is there are numerous unrelated aquifers beneath, above or adjacent to the seams to be mined. Don't for a moment think that whatever you see on top of the ground bares any resemblance to what is below the ground.

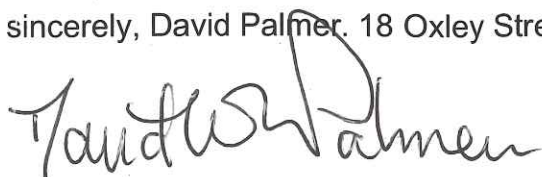
Furthermore, the Southern Highlands of NSW was, back in the 1960-1970s predicted to be the executive dormitory for Sydney. This prediction has been completely vindicated. The growth corridor will follow the M31 as it is, now alongside Wilton and heading south. The current population of this district is around 45,000 and will grow to >60,000 by 2050/2060. This is not in dispute.

The Medway mine area is prime agricultural land, soon to be swallowed by residential.

I have lived, on and off, all my life in this district; in fact I put myself through college back in the 1970s when working on the assay rigs in the areas to be mined by Hume coal. We found coal repeatedly at 420 feet.

But above all, a decision must be made soon. We have lived with this uncertainty now for eight years and it is no longer appropriate to live under this shadow.

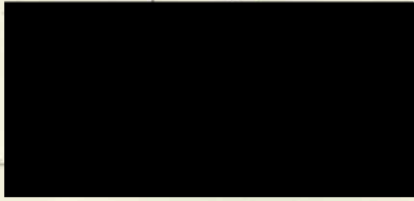
Yours sincerely, David Palmer. 18 Oxley Street, Berrima 2577



30 June 2021

Sender

David Palmer



POSTNET barcode consisting of vertical bars of varying heights.