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28th June 2021

Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY 2000
ipcn@ipcn.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sirs

Re: HUME COAL PROJECT
Public Hearing 12th & 13th July 2021
Lots 1 & 2, DP1093425, 180-182 Belanglo Road, Sutton Forest

We are the owners of 350 acres at 180-182 Belanglo Road, Sutton Forest. The property is used to operate a prize-winning Angus cattle stud, which is now expanding. There has also been enormous pasture improvement over the past 5 years.

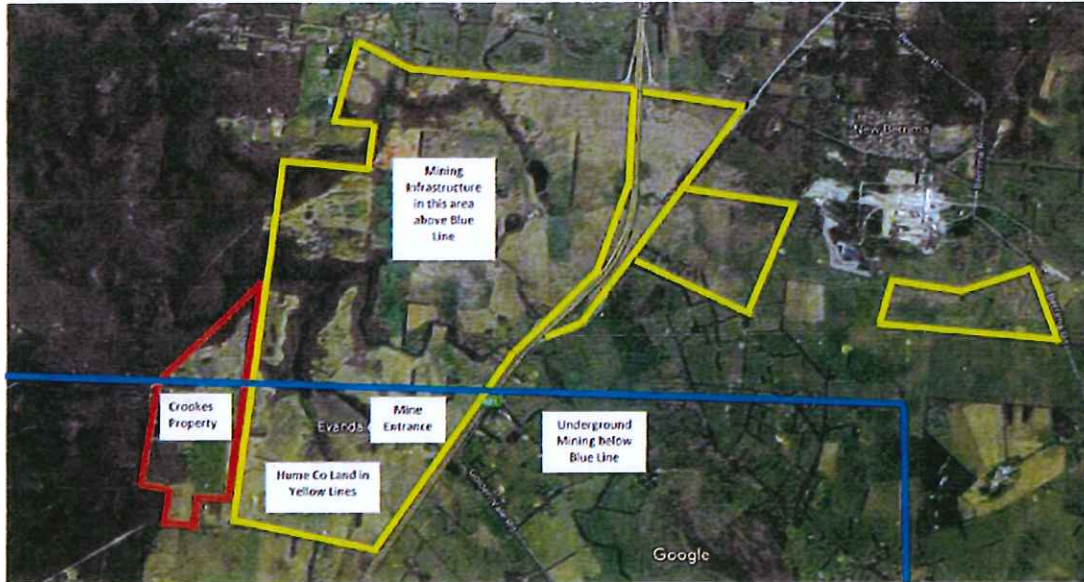
A huge amount of money was spent on our original submission using consultants with extensive research and Hume Coal has not alleviated our concern – water. They have done a couple of tests on our bores – that is all. This is also the Government's greatest concern. There was also an enormous cost when Hume Coal wanted to take forced access to the property and we had to fight that.

We reiterate our objection to the Hume Coal Project for the following reasons:

1. The proposed mine infrastructure shares a common boundary of over 1,800 m with our property. We are the most affected of all the properties by Hume Coal's application.
2. This will affect our farm's future viability.
3. This will affect the value of our property.
4. **Most importantly, this will affect our water.**

PROXIMITY OF MINE TO CROOKES' PROPERTY

Map showing the property and Hume Coal Mine locations



- Red Outline Area** Crookes property – includes stud cattle farming
- Yellow Outline Area** Hume Coal infrastructure
- Blue Outline Area** Underground mining (note – below Crookes' property)

LOSS OF WATER TO CROOKES' PROPERTY

As part of our original submission was a report from Larry Cook Consulting (copy attached) which included the following comments:

- GHD report – 'it is possible that some modelled predictions may show a complete loss of water from the bores on the property' – Larry Cook Consulting concurs with this assessment.
- The predicted maximum impact from proposed coal extraction will dewater four of the five aquifers which accounts for 64% of the bore yield. The maximum drawdown level is approximately 3m above the lowermost aquifer
- The 'lead in' time likely required to replace the water supply that is presently connected to the irrigation scheme. Such measures need to be addressed by the proponent prior to any project approval.
- The prospects for additional groundwater supplies in the underlying Permian sedimentary sequence are considered to be poor, based on historic water well drilling elsewhere in the district.
- According to the model, the uppermost aquifer that constitutes approximately 48% of the bore yield will be lost as a consequence of proposal coal extraction.
- Lowering any bore pump is not considered feasible for the following reasons:
 - The main aquifer is the uppermost aquifer that will be dewatered.
 - The aggregate bore yield 96.7 L/s) cannot be achieved
 - There are no prospects of deepening the subject bore because the base of the bore is below the Wongawilli Seam and prospects for additional groundwater supplies in

the underlying Permian sedimentary sequence are considered to be poor, based on historic water well drilling elsewhere in the district.

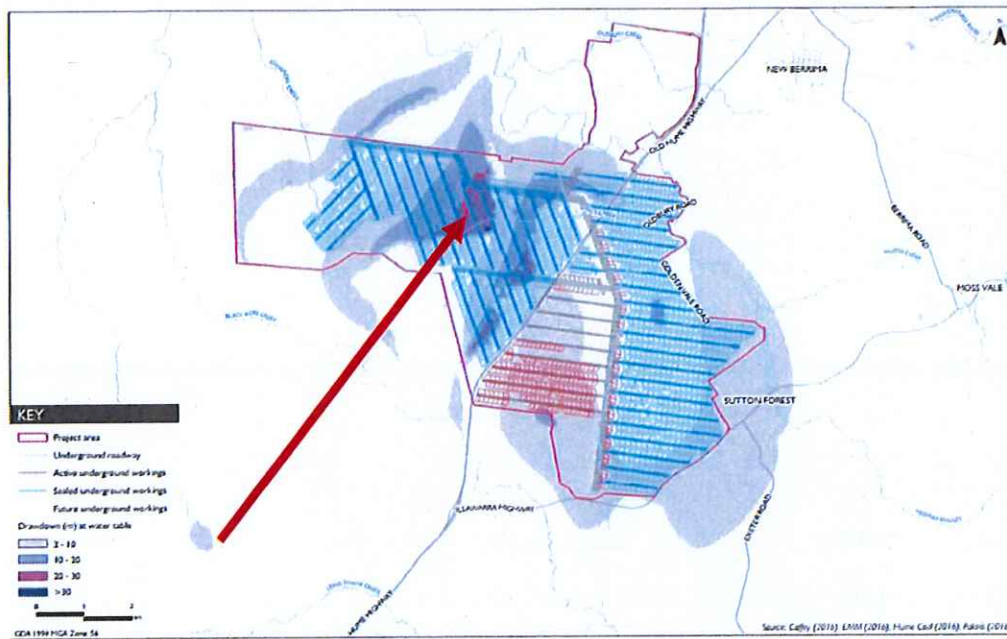
- It is therefore possible that there may be a complete loss of water from one or more bores on the property.

Bore Water and Groundwater security for the cattle stud

The cattle stud operations rely on 98Mltr of water from registered bores for stock water, irrigation and pasture protection. The proposed underground mine runs underneath our property and is forecast by Hume Coal to result in significant lowering of the aquifer levels below our bores.

There are 93 landholder bores over 71 properties predicted to have drawdowns of 2 metres or more. This exceeds the acceptable level in the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy. Hume Coal have advised their "make good" policy would lower the pumps, deepen or replace the bores or agree to other arrangements. Potential de-watering of the bores and dams and compensation are not mentioned. The over-arching solution is "Trust us", problems will be addressed when they arise "after we start mining" and "at our discretion". The potential for litigation is high.

Location of bores showing affect from coal mining – course of Hume Coal original submission



Extent of project impact water table drawdown - Year 17

Hume Coal Project
Environmental Impact Statement
Figure 7.9



Purple Area 20-30 metres water drawdown
Red arrow shows the purple patch below the Crookes property

State Significant Development Assessment Report (SSDA) – quoted from Executive Summary

The Applicant has proposed a strategy to 'make good' on the predicted drawdown impacts. While the proposed make good measures (e.g. deepening pumps or replacing bores) may be feasible from a strictly technical standpoint, the NSW Aquifer Interference Policy expressly contemplates the possible scenario where there are "no suitable or practical mitigation or prevention options", and the Department considers this project represents such a case.

Hume Coal has made no effort to satisfy the loss of water. They simply say 'we will negotiate'.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Crookes', is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or stamp.

Richard Crookes and Lynne Crookes OAM
WATSON PARK PTY LTD