

Ann Poppelwell
11 Oxley St
Berrima, NSW 2577

Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth St
Sydney 2000
SSD 7172 and SSD 7171 – Second referral

Dear Commissioners,

I have been a resident of Berrima for more than 10 years and wish to express my opposition to Hume Coal's applications to allow underground mining for coal to proceed. The proposed mine represents a real threat to residents and the environment not only for the Southern Highlands, but to the Sydney Water Catchment as well.

Water NSW is not convinced that all of the water produced in the mine can be stored underground in a timely manner. We are informed that the mine water dam may over-flow, and untreated water may discharge into our catchment waterways. Also there is a threat to our groundwater should the mine collapse for any reason. Infrastructures such as the Hume Hwy, gas pipelines and communications cables are also threatened, especially as the method of underground mining advocated by Hume Coal is a largely untested one.

Berrima recently won the acclaimed Best Small Town in NSW less than 5000 Pop, such is its attraction as a tourist destination and its close proximity to Sydney. Any mining in this area would be a disaster for the economic development for the Southern Highlands, and destroy its attractiveness and popularity as a tourist area. Financially the gains for NSW government appear to be minimal from royalties etc and employment prospects limited, especially in the medium to long term. We have a greater chance of damaging employment opportunities from tourism and hospitality should this mine proceed.

Therefore I cannot see it in the public interest not only for the Southern Highlands but NSW to allow this Hume Coal project to proceed. These findings and more have already been addressed several times by the Department of Planning who also agreed that this project was unviable on several levels.

Warm Regards



Ann Poppelwell

