

19 July 2021

Casey Joshua
Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioners

Submission - Hume Coal Mine and Berrima Rail Line Projects (SSD 7172 and SSD 7171)

WaterNSW appreciates the opportunity to provide a final submission on the Hume Coal Mine and Berrima Rail Line Projects (SSD 7172 and SSD 7171) having regard to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's (DPIE) latest assessment report to the Commission, dated June 2021.

WaterNSW reiterates its remaining concerns in relation to the Hume Coal Mine project, and expressed in the DPIE Assessment Report, including:

- The applicant has not demonstrated that the project can achieve a Neutral or Beneficial Effect (NorBE) on water quality as required under Clause 10(1) of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011*.
- There is a lack of contingency for treatment of mine water should the proposed method of re-injecting mine water into the mining voids not be possible for any reason.
- The only other water management system, the proposed Primary Water Dam (PWD), would have 6 to 9 months capacity in the wettest climate scenario from Year 11 of mining onwards to hold mine water. Therefore there is potential for discharge of untreated mine water into Oldbury Creek and the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. This would not result in a NorBE on surface water quality.
- The contingency measures for the management of any discharges of untreated mine water from the PWD should be specified and designed upfront, in order to ensure the NorBE on water quality is satisfied.

If you wish to discuss this letter or the project more generally please do not hesitate to contact Girja Sharma via e-mail on environmental.assessments@watnsw.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fiona Smith".

FIONA SMITH
Executive Manager Water and Catchment Protection