

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT
INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Moss Vale Services Club Argyle Street and Yarra Street Moss Vale 2577

Good Afternoon, my name is Christine Mallet, I am a resident at Berrima, and I am against the Mine.

We have heard many wonderful presentations over the last 2 day, all stake holders, who care enough about the Mine to take time to put themselves though the ordeal of giving a presentation. I am very grateful that you have given us this opportunity.

I wish to focus on the smaller picture of what it will mean to our family if the mine is given approval to go ahead, at our home and garden and to Berrima Village.

I am a 5 or 6 generation Australian, so I have a deep feeling for our country and how we care about it. I believe we have a duty of care to leave this world in better condition than when we arrived. It isn't our right to take what we want, when we want and leave our children and grandchildren to deal with the mess.

We lived in HK for 20 years and finally left because, as China industrialized, HK became more polluted and crowded and it wasn't a good place to live in any more.

So we moved back to Australia and down to Berrima, in 2011. We rented a until we bought our current home, which sits beside the Wingecarrabee River on two and a half acres of land.

Most of the garden is basically native bush, with lots of gum and wattle trees and bushes and grasses. About a third is laid to lawn and has European trees like ornamental pears, maples, fruit trees etc., and clipped hedges.

For the last 2 years we have been suffering from what is called a Green Drought, it looks green, but if you put your fingers into the ground just below the surface, the soil is completely dry. So over the last 18 months or so, a lot of our European trees have died and my vegetable crop is unreliable. The tomatoes can look wonderful, but when you cut them in half, they are nearly hollow in side.

One of our greatest joys, is the enormous range of Wildlife that lives in our garden.

Animals: - Grey Kangaroos, Swamp Wallaby, Wombats, Echidna, Platypus, Water Dragons , Rabbits and Foxes, Bush and Ringtail Possums.

Bird Life: - Brown Ducks, Black Cockatoos, Kookaburras, Curley Top Pigeons, Doves, Magpies, Kurrajongs, Red Emperor Parrots and King Parrots, to name just a few.

We are privileged to share their lives, which they live practically under our noses, as our main lawn is just outside our French window, so we have a ring side seat and we have all become use to living with each other.

We often see the baby Kangaroos climb into their mothers pouches to have a feed and once the little one is settled the mother will continues to graze on the lawn.

Many of the animals not only feed in our garden, but they pass through it on their way to the River. In fact, I think Kangaroos from all around the Berrima area, travel across the undeveloped land and hop down through the Crown Land bush to the old Cricket Oval where Donald Bradman played as a young man. From there they have easy access to the River.

Our garden is really a sanctuary for many of these creatures, particularly because we have a Bore and are able to keep our lawn and bushes alive. Without the bore, I don't know where they would go.

This last summer has been particularly difficult because we had months with no rain at all and temperatures were up in the 40"s for days on end. We clocked 43.6 degrees on one occasion, but may well have had higher. If you don't have water, the grass turns to straw.

Which brings me to Hume Coal and what is going to happen to our Bore. We really rely on the Bore to keep our plants alive. We aren't on the town water supply, we have tank water for drinking and household use. But if tank runs dry, we really need the Bore for backup. How will we survive if the Bore runs dry?

If the mine goes ahead the dust from the 800 meter x 6 level Coal Stack will blow right over our house and garden. It will fill all the roof gutters and overwhelm everything that we touch and use. If it does rain, the water will wash the dust into our tank water, what will we drink. Will Hume Coal, deliver water to us?

We live South of the River, about 2.5 km, from where most of the activity will take place. So we expect to be affected by the Noise, Dust, and Lights and possibly ground movement.

It will ruin the wonderful world that we have enjoyed since we moved to Berrima.

Its not just our world, it is everyone who lives in and around Berrima; our neighbors, the people who live in the Village, the shop keepers, the school children, the 250,000 Tourists who swarm here every day to enjoy our beautiful historic village and environment. It's a disaster.

Do you realize that Berrima is not like other villages? It doesn't have a Supermarket or a Pharmacy or a Butchers or a Garage, it is largely a Village that survives on Tourism. It has lots of Restaurants and Café's, a Pub, Motel and lots of places where people can stay. There are little shops that sell all sorts of things that Tourists can take home as a memory of their day trip to Berrima. There are Art Galleries, Antiques, Knitwear and people selling their hand made objects.

At 5 O'clock, they all disappear and the shopkeepers go home to rest up for the next day. The restaurants and café's are closed on week nights, except for the Pub. So if you drive down the Old Hume Highway through the Village after 5pm, you may find the Ducks happily walking across the Highway on their way to the River.

If the Mine goes ahead Berrima as we know it will die. After the Tourists stop coming, what will happen to the Shopkeepers? I don't think many of them will be equipped to offer the sorts of fast food and goods that the Miners will want. Where will they go, especially if the value of their property has plunged.

What will any of us do? We have all had this worry in the back of our minds for years now, we generally don't talk about it, and we just get on with trying to stop it from happening.

Please don't allow this terrible disaster to happen. Please buy back the Leases so we can feel secure in the knowledge that we won't have to keep on fighting this terrible endless Battle. Enough is enough!

Thank you for your time.