

## Verbal Presentation to IPC by HUGH R FARRIMOND

As a resident of Berrima, I support the recommendation to reject the proposal to mine coal in the NSW Southern Highlands.

I consider the project neither a financial nor a social benefit to New South Wales nor Australia.

### **Financial**

The potential damage to the aquifer is well documented elsewhere. Such damage has a financial consequence beyond estimate.

### **Social & Personal**

In 2005 my late wife and I chose Berrima in which to retire. Chosen because of its historic significance, its physical and social infrastructure and its proximity to and remoteness from Sydney.

The town is in a rural area, the air is clear & clean and in winter, very crisp; the stars are amazing, and the nights are beautifully quiet.

An underground coal mine with a mine head some 5km to the west and a railway line 2km to the south would, I consider, change Berrima from rural village into a cluster of private dwellings in a heavy industrial area.

I have no faith in the predictions by Hume Coal that the surface movement of the coal will have little impact on dust, air pollution & noise. The stockpile (an essential buffer between rates of production and delivery) will be exposed to the winds. The conveyor belts, rail car loaders and the trains themselves are mechanical devices. I'm a mechanical engineer, yes a lot of mechanical devices can be made to operate quietly, most of the time. But we all know that mechanical devices fail.

The total number of mechanical devices in this operation is a big number and for all to operate as designed is a big ask. And as for trains, we all know how silent they are.

Other effects such as light spill will also be a detriment on our lifestyle and living conditions.

A coal mine would place historic Berrima into an industrial zone without doubt. I ask that this lovely historic Berrima be protected.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Time 2mins 10 secs (not including periods of applause!)