

IPC hearing

In Favour of the Hume Coal Project

Background

- Princess Pastoral Company PTY LTD (PPCo) is owned by Cate and Peter Brooks
- PPCo runs a best practice grazing and grain system turning out supermarket weight lambs and cattle.
- PPCo has licenced farm land for its operations from Hume Coal for the past 37 months.
- The strategic aim for PPCo and Hume Coal is the successful operation and coexistence of the two businesses.

Agricultural Production

- In 2018 Princess Pastoral sent out 5,528 beef heifers, 1,109 beef steers and 2,870 lambs. To date this financial year, we have sent out 1,469 heifers, 811 steer and 10,188 lambs. This equates to 260,303 kilograms (dressed weight) of lamb. As the average Australian consumes of 26 kg of beef and 9 kg of lamb each year (<https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/market-news/know-the-numbers-state-of-the-industry-report-2018/>) it is enough to supply 28,992.6 people with lamb for an entire year and we still have 8000 on hand to be sold before the end of June. In the 2018 financial year we sold 1,676,154 kg of beef at 26 kg per person means we supplied 64,467 people with beef for 1 year. On top of each of these figures we also supplied other crops such as canola in 2017 however as you are aware the last couple of years have been extremely dry and have significantly impacted our production levels.
- This is by far and away the largest livestock turnover business in the local area made possible by Hume coal's amalgamation of smaller holdings.
- Our production rates outstrip the local average by 5 times on a per hectare basis.
- These levels of productivity have only been achievable through the amalgamation of the Hume Coal farms.

Flow on Effects

- In the 2018 financial year we spent approximately \$315,000 with one local family owned freight company, \$150,000 with the local stock agent as well as using local services for repairs and maintenance etc.
- We also have one full time employee who was originally from the Highlands and we were able to provide him with the work to return to the area with his young family.
- We also use a variety of local casual workers.
- We have 3 children at schools in the highlands and all attend community activities.
- We are involved with many local sporting groups and the constant theme is that the jobs that Hume will provide are sorely needed in this community.

Farm Management

- Prior to Hume Coal amalgamating the properties, they were thick with serrated tussock and other noxious weeds due to the substandard management of the previous owners.
- Since then 99% of the weed burden has been eradicated.
- PPCo enjoys good relations with the neighbours.

Ground Water Use

- We do not irrigate
- We only use bore water for watering livestock and we use no irrigation as the average annual rainfall in the southern highlands usually allows for high production without it.
- We do not plan to irrigate in the future
- Our farming system relies on saving water in the soil profile and using it during the growing season.

Working Relationship with Hume Coal

The working relationship between Hume Coal and Princess Pastoral Co is one of mutual respect for the two industries and working together to reach a common goal of each entity being successful so that both can continue into the future.

- The Hume Coal project will use less than 150 acres for its surface infrastructure, and we do not see the impact in our production to be significantly affected.
- The design of the mine infrastructure is such that livestock movement is still practical and in some cases the instance of additional facilities, there will be an improvement to production.
- We do not believe that dust, noise or any other issues will impact production levels.
- The mine has worked closely with us to design a farm friendly design so that agriculture can co-exist with underground mining.

It is our strong belief that the mine will be not noticed once built and will have little impact on our production of high-quality meat and grain. This belief is validated by the significant investment we have made in the property to date.

Our family of 7 will live with in 3 km of the mine and we have the highest faith that there will be no issues providing the best practice protocols are followed for stockpile management and noise.