

From: [REDACTED]
To: [IPCN Enquiries Mailbox](#)
Subject: Objection to Hume coal and railway developments
Date: Thursday, 20 December 2018 5:42:22 PM

Written request submitted due to being interstate at time of public hearing.

To the public and the IPC,

I am writing to plead against the establishment of the proposed coal mine & railway developments in the beautiful Southern Highlands. My wife, 3yo and 1yo old daughters visit every 8 weeks on a block of property we have in Berrima, hoping that we may be able to move there and send her to school one day. I was brought up in the country (Cooma, Snowy Mountains) and see the benefits of country lifestyle for young children. The safety, sense of community, health and stress benefits are numerous. I implore you, the IPC, to please consider the environmental and health impacts as the 2 most important factors that will be adversely affected if a coal mine of the proposed magnitude is approved. After reading almost weekly accounts of health impacts from coal mining here in NSW and around the world, I certainly would not want to be anywhere near where the coal mine is, let alone risk my child's long term health with proven detriments, which would also place further pressure on the already struggling health care system.

Berrima is mainland Australia's last intact Georgian town as I'm sure you're aware, and placing a coal mine down the road from a heritage site would be like placing an oil rig in Sydney Harbour. It might be ok, but it might not, and that is not a risk anyone should be willing to take.

Sydney is already at breaking point with population/infrastructure - the govt needs to do more to encourage ppl to move to the country by creating jobs, but not at the expense of the environment. Jobs are always going to be very important especially in semi-rural/rural areas, and sure the coal mine would create jobs in the mine, and for utilities and govt, but not more than what it could remove. Many vineyards, dairy, fruit & veg, farms (animals and crops) have 1000s of employees that rely on pure, uncontaminated water and improved air quality. If affected, then the potential for unemployment is far greater than any jobs created that send a sizable % of profits offshore, ruin the environment, ruin people's health and livelihoods. Tourism is a major benefactor for the Highlands, I'm sure there would be far less events, weddings and weekend trips to visit a beautiful town affected by coal dust, contaminated water, and roads that have even more potholes from increased heavy vehicles and waiting for all the trains to pass at the level crossings.

My brother works as a coal miner in the Hunter Valley in Singleton, where there are health reports frequently of children and the elderly being affected by the dust. There are EPA investigations right now. He drives 1.5hrs 4-5 days per week from Newcastle just so he is far enough away from the mine. He has regular checks and so far so good, but he's 30 and only been working there for 5 years. What if he worked and lived there for 20? Half of his workforce has been laid off in the last 3 years, and mines have closed due to China and other markets making coal mining not as profitable as it once was as demand vs supply hinders industry heavily. If this is happening why do we need another coal mine? The royalty return of \$120m for the life of the coal mine is a pittance and only based on the current suggested scale of the mine (which I am sure will be requested to

increase over time) and only if coal price does not drop any lower.

I'm sure you'd agree the health, environment and job impacts the mine would impose are not worth any risk, and in a time of innovation and global warming, surely opening a coal mine goes against everything we should be standing for? I'm sure contaminating water for 5 million Sydney residents is not going to be an easy fix.

Finally we know that Hume Coal has said carriages will be covered, the stack will be watered down and covered, that it is environmentally safe and that having 70yrs before the water table is acceptable and manageable - which I obviously disagree with - but the coal will obviously be burnt, further destroying the planet, let alone the impact of all the energy required to have it shipped to Korea. We live on the same planet and breathe the same air.

Hopefully you will all take what I and so many others have said into consideration and make the most important factors in our lives paramount. Clean Land, Water, Air & Food for us and our children. Let's leave the world in better condition than we found it.

Sincerely,
Simon Strong