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This is a submission to the Berrima Rail Project EIS. SSD7171

I object to this project and recommend that it be rejected.

We moved to the Southern Highlands several years ago for tranquillity, health and an enhanced lifestyle quality in a beautiful environment.

As with many other residents, we live in a fairly close proximity to the railway line that Hume Coal will use to transport coal. With the addition of eight more goods trains per day (four either way) the noise and filth currently experienced will be significantly increased, impacting health and lifestyle quality. Shunting and operating noise throughout the day and night is already at a disturbing level, so additional traffic will exacerbate the situation.

Frequently travelling by train to Sydney, we currently have frequent delays with coal trains shunting at Tamoor and other goods trains obviously having precedence over passenger trains. It is a rare day that the passenger trains we take are running to schedule because of this. Adding more goods (coal) trains to the mix would make passenger train travel even more disrupted.

The Hume Coal impact on the environment will be considerable, despite claims to the contrary. Already we experience pollution from cement processing and uncovered coal waggons, vastly in excess of the visible surface pollution that we experienced living in Sydney. Add to that the fact that the proposed mine is located within the Sydney Water Catchment and the potential for future impact is undeniable.

Bearing in mind that the coal is for export to Korea, the Hume Coal project will inflict considerable negatives on the local residents who will reap absolutely no benefits. If coal mining is deemed essential to support exports, by the authorities, then they should take one of the mines that are closing around the Hunter Valley, where the infrastructure is already in place rather than destroying the beautiful countryside of the Southern Highlands and the quality of life and health for many residents who have significant investments in the region.

In addition to these obvious concerns there are questions that seem to have not been addressed, such as the potential to expand the operation in the future, hideous and toxic stockpiling and with what will the mine be filled after coal is removed. The entire project is a recipe for a disastrous outcome for residents.

I ask the Government to reject this project

Signed,



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