

Submission of Rod Doyle on the Berrima Rail Project

I am in favour of both the Hume Coal and the Berrima Rail Project going ahead. I seek the NSW government and PAC to approve these projects. In support of my submission I make the following comments.

I have nearly 40 years of experience in the Coal Industry in various coalfields in Australia and in various capacities, as a Coal Geologist, Geotechnical Engineer, an Exploration Manager and as a Site Senior Executive. I have also reviewed most of EIS documents and feel that I have a very good overall understanding of the Projects. It is my overall conclusion, that there is ample technical justification to ensure that this development should be approved.

Jobs: In addition to the construction jobs for the rail line extension there will be full time, long term jobs established for the Berrima Rail transport.

Community Consultation: Hume Coal have had two community shops available for the local community to access, one in Moss Vale (now closed) and one in Berrima. In addition there is the main technical office in Moss Vale. People are free to come in and ask questions and be informed about the Projects. There is a dedicated staff to assist any and all inquiries.

Royalties: Without the rail project the Hume Coal would not be able to proceed. Which would mean that all of the benefits derived from the Hume Coal Project would be lost.

Environmental Factors: All areas from soil analysis to rehabilitation have been carefully reviewed. Dust and air quality, ecology, fauna and flora, stream behaviour have all been reviewed and found to have minimal impacts.

Aboriginal History and European Heritage: The area has a record of both Aboriginal and European Heritage. Hume Coal will not have any impact of this rich historic past. It has already proven itself with its rehabilitation of houses and agricultural pursuits at all of its properties and in particular its Mereworth Property on which the rail loop is proposed to be built.

Noise: a sound wall is proposed in the area of the rail loop to minimise the noise impacts to the nearest landowners. New locomotives with new braking systems are designed to reduce noise and the shuffling effect of carriages bumping into one another. Overall the noise from these trains will be less than older generation trains. There will be a minimal increase in background levels of sound.

Visual: Regarding visual amenity, the surface mine infrastructure has the Hume Motorway as a border to the east and is also located adjacent to the Industrial area associated with Moss Vale. Which includes the Boral Cement works, a local sewerage treatment plant, OMYA, Stegges and a proposed brickworks quarry to name a few of the nearby local business activities. This surface mine infrastructure is proposed to be built on land already owned by the proponent. The existing rail access way used to extend to the nearby Berrima Coal Mine which had operated in the area for nearly 100 years. Hume have already planted thousands of native trees and shrubs to eliminate any visual concerns that local residents or passer-by's might have.

Traffic and Transport: It is proposed that workers will travel to the site via the existing Hume Motorway. Coal will be transported from the site via rail along the existing railway to Port Kembla. There is more than sufficient space to accommodate the transport as the line is underutilised. With

the announced closure of Tahmoor Colliery in the near future and the cessation of its rail transport, it's likely that there will be a minor overall net increase on the rail line, if any.

Safety: Hume Coal has a strong safety focus developed during exploration activities and this attitude will continue through the mines construction and mining activities.

Justification: An exceptional amount of work has gone into planning this mine to be a low impact development. Those charged with reviewing the EIS documentation will see the evidence of this. On balance I can only conclude that the benefits of this proposal far outweigh any downsides. The NSW Government and PAC should approve these Projects for the numerous benefits outlined for the people of the State of New South Wales.