

To whom it may concern,

After reviewing the EIS summary thoroughly and also following the application process, I am extremely supportive of the Hume Coal mine proposal and the associated Berrima rail project. I have based my support on a number of facts that have been made clear to me. These include:

- Creation of hundreds of jobs that will allow younger local residents access to well paid, skilled careers that are currently lacking in the region.
- Flow on economic benefits to local businesses, to both suppliers of goods and services as well as local retailers that will see increased spending by employees.
- Minimal visual impacts due to the underground nature of the project as well as the planning of tree screens where appropriate. I note that these visual impacts are far less imposing than some of the anti-coal signage that has been polluting the area since project inception.
- Minimal water impacts to bores which were likely not used prior to the development application anyway. The underground water storage capacity after mine life will also be an advantage for the community with possible future use as town water supply storage or as agricultural storage.

There are also a number of other factors that have weighed in on my supportive opinion for the project. These include:

- The positive benefits that coal mining has brought to my home town of Mudgee in NSW. For example, Mudgee has seen strong growth in the past ten years when mining has been prevalent in the town. This growth can be seen in the business success of the local suppliers of goods and services, the strong employment and skill development of the younger generations, increased housing development, and increased support and sponsorship of local sporting clubs/communities. I believe this proves that mining can co-exist in a small regional community and that the Berrima community deserves to reap the same positive benefits that Mudgee has.
- The scare campaign that has been funded and ran by wealthy members of the community is a selfish campaign that aims to thwart local members of the community the opportunity to build their own wealth locally, rather than earning their fortune in Sydney before retiring to the Southern Highlands like many of the campaigners have done themselves.
- Many Australians take for granted the fact that they can turn on the lights at night or buy an affordable car made out of steel without fully realising that both of these luxuries have been born through the ability to mine coal economically and turn it into productive goods and services. Whilst Australia may see a declining need for coal fired power going forward, we still use a large amount of steel which is dependent on coking coal for its production. The thermal coal component of the mine is also likely to be exported to developing countries where it can be used to generate electricity, this electricity will enable the developing countries to advance their economies and lift their population into the developed world that we currently enjoy. To deny these countries the opportunity to do so would be selfish, as our economic success today is a function of our historic reliance on cheap coal powered electricity.

I hope I have provided some important context to which the approval decision for Hume Coal and the Berrima rail line is made. Do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

Kind Regards,

Tim Mort