

David Ian Thomas

'Platypus Run' 8022 Illawarra Highway

Sutton Forest NSW 2577

PERSONAL INFORMATION

I am 67 years old and am a self funded retiree, which gives me time to do work for my sons. I often run vehicles to the mechanics or operate machinery for them as well as drive their truck to job sites all over the Highlands.

TIME DELAYS

The increased traffic on the rail line will undoubtedly affect my ability to quickly and efficiently deliver goods or vehicles for my sons business.

Their mechanic is in Carribee St Moss Vale and it will not matter which way you try and get there you must cross the rail line at a level crossing having the potential for delays.

The boys also work out at Iona Park Road, Sheepwash Road and Robertson all crossing the rail line at level crossings. The potential for delays is high and in business if a delivery is held up then productivity is lost and therefore income.

POLLUTION

The railway line runs directly behind Robertson Public School. There were many studies done in Newcastle on the amount of pollution that was given off by coal trains. I do not think that any pollution is acceptable, even if the coal wagons are covered there will be coal dust on and about the train also the trains will be going down to the coast through Robertson and be long and heavy trains if they are on the brakes behind the school the brake dust (which could be carcinogenic) will be blown all over the play ground and school buildings for later dispersal.

LINE MAINTENANCE

On the June weekend I travelled back to the Southern Highlands through the Hunter Valley, the amount of maintenance going on on the Sunday on the line around Muswellbrook was astounding, innumerable vehicles and men, road signs every where, massive infrastructure of rolling stock on the rail line conducting repairs (would have been millions of dollars of gear), as well as loaders and other ground working machines.

All these works meant reduced speed restrictions on the New England Highway, again any maintenance will cause disruption to the travelling public and in my case for business deliveries.

What will happen to the maintenance of this line? Who will foot the bill? What about when mine is closed what then? State governments responsibility? Or turn it into a push bike trail? (that would be popular??)

SUMMARY

The proposed increased use of the rail line for coal transport will cause business loss for people who work in the district, any pollution is totally unacceptable even if within some stated guideline. No one should be exposed to any form of pollution from a known source especially children. The maintenance of the line will eventually be the States responsibility and any revenue will not cover costs into the future.