

This is a submission to the Berrima Rail Project EIS. SSD 7171

I have lived and worked in the Southern Highlands for almost thirty years. I object strongly to this project and believe it should be rejected for the following reasons:

- The rail infrastructure will directly impact on the cultural landscape of the villages of Berrima, Sutton Forest and Exeter.
- The landscape involved is largely zoned E3 by the Wingecarribee LEP, which has a goal to preserve the rural landscape and the cultural value of the landscape. The development does not meet these goals in any way.
- I have taught primary school students in a variety of communities within the Southern Highlands for many years and I know how deeply the local residents value this clean, green environment. The rail line runs approximately 30 metres behind Robertson Public School's playground. I know the students play and spend time on the oval area beside the rail line. Coal dust and noise pose an unacceptable health risk to students and staff.
- Pedestrian traffic, including school children, is at risk in Moss Vale and Robertson. The latter has a number of pedestrian crossings and road crossings.
- Suttor Road, Sheepwash Road and Illawarra Highway crossings will pose unacceptable risk. These crossings experience a high degree of traffic. Many of the users are tourists, unfamiliar with the area.
- The rail crossing on Douglas Road and Collins Road in the Moss Vale Enterprise corridor will be compromised by increased traffic. The Collins Road crossing is particularly dangerous and close to or below ARTC current safety standards.
- The EIS and DA lodged by Hume Coal show there will be additional traffic delays at level crossings.
- Hume Coal trains will add 24 minutes of closure at rail crossings every day.
- Increased rail crossing closures will seriously impact emergency vehicles.

In Conclusion

There is so much potential for irreversible damage to the Southern Highlands landscape as well as the health and safety of both residents and visitors if this project goes ahead. I urge the Government to reject the Berrima Rail Project.