

25 June 2017

NSW Department of Planning & Environment
PO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: SDD7171 Berrima Rail Project—EIS Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am making this submission to express my concerns about the Berrima Rail Project, in relation to the broad environmental and social impacts of the project and the inadequacy of the Hume Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in addressing many of these issues. I am a resident of the Southern Highlands and the mother of a young family. I am also a heritage consultant with extensive experience in reviewing and assessing development applications, particularly in relation to potential cultural heritage impacts. I have also been employed in the position of Strategic Planner—Heritage at Wingecarribee Shire Council.

I have reviewed sections of the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the project, as well as information prepared by and on behalf of the Battle4Berrima and Coal Free Southern Highlands groups in response to the EIS and the DA for the project. The analysis presented in this documentation raises many concerns about the project that do not appear to have been adequately addressed by Hume Coal.

I understand that the proposed Berrima Rail Project will affect 17 level crossings across the Southern Highlands region. The proposed increased number of trains resulting from the Hume Coal mine will substantially increase the number of level crossing closures and traffic delays at these crossings. These delays will affect local traffic flows, and of even greater concern, will potentially affect emergency vehicle response times across the region.

The increased number of trains resulting from the project will also have a number of adverse impacts on the community of Robertson, including increased safety risks at pedestrian and road crossings. The rail line runs very close to the boundary of Robertson Primary School. The proposed increased number of trains resulting from the mine project will increase noise pollution at the school and adjacent areas. The potential for coal dust exposure from the trains also presents a health risk to the school population.

I do not believe that these issues have been adequately addresses in the EIS documentation prepared for project. The potential for substantial adverse impacts on residents and communities in the immediate vicinity of the Berrima Rail Project, as currently proposed, are unacceptable. I request that approval for this project is not given until these issues are adequately addressed and mitigated, and the safety and amenity of the communities affected are given the consideration that they deserve.

Yours sincerely,



Anne Mackay