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Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments Department of
Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

This is a submission to the Berrima Rail Project EIS. SSD 7171 and the Hume Coal EIS 7172

I totally object to these projects and believe they should be rejected for a number of reasons; I have read the submissions from the Wingecarribee Shire Council and the Berrima Residents Association – They are professionally written and have covered all aspects of the proposed developments and I whole heartedly agree with the comments in these two papers.

I live in Berrima and have run businesses for 45 years and it offers me a generous living and lifestyle and, therefore, I am totally committed to and passionate about what happens in this gentle, lovely village.

Berrima is a magnet to people all over Australia and internationally because of its unique simplicity and history; historic Berrima is not like other towns and villages which are over developed and lost their identity.

The Southern Highlands is a “paradise” in most peoples’ minds; it is green and has a beautiful coverage of trees and parks and gardens, numerous restaurants and many wedding venues. Environmentally, it is so beautiful with an abundance of birds, animals, and platypus in the rivers which have to be protected at all costs.

The very fact that Hume Coal would locate its main above ground processing area in such an exposed position – so close to the village of Berrima and so close to the roads leading into the southern side of the village – is an insult and an environmental blight.

It concerns me to feel the angst in the community and see how people are so rattled, insecure and tentative waiting for the decisions on the coal mine and how it will affect them. I have collected thousands of signatures for petitions and have spoken to a lot of people, all of them very, very concerned. Hume Coal’s recent claim that “tourism and mining are complimentary” indicates how gullible it thinks the community is.

After 45 years, I probably, more than most people, understand what tourists want and, despite Hume Coal’s sentiment, they do not want Berrima to become a coal mining town.

I truly hope that the government will take into consideration the fact that this proposed coal mine, which seems to be on the borderline of financial viability could, with a worldwide declining coal market become a white elephant, not only could the government be left to fix up the mess, but it will also have lost the financial benefit coming from the continuity of sustainable growth the area promises. Agricultural opportunities could be lost as depleted ground water prevents essential new bores from being installed.

Stopping this mine is not an opportunity lost, it is a gold mine retained. There is only one Southern highlands. Stop the mine.

Very sincerely,



Jan Weeks

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