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Executive Director Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**Ref: Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171**

We are the owners of 298 Medway Rd, Medway and wish to express our deep concern with this project. Not only will it have a severe impact on our property and lifestyle it will also greatly impact residents from Medway Rd right through the Southern Highlands down the Illawarra Escarpment and through to the coal terminal at Port Kembla with additional large scale rail movements and associated noise and dust.

We purchased our property in 1972 and have lived here for over 40 years. It was a lifestyle choice and a wonderful place to bring up our children. It is centrally located to the three main towns in this area and offers easy access to both the Hume Highway and the coastal regions of NSW.

We are deeply distressed to be listed as one of the properties listed to be acquired due to the impact of noise from the Berrima Rail Project.

Our areas of concern are as follows:

Water

The Hume Coal Mining proposal is located within the Sydney Water Catchment, which services the Sydney metropolitan basin and any development proposal within the catchment must be scrutinised in detail as it has the potential to impact this critical water resource.

The surrounding catchment area could be impacted from the runoff water that will be used to wash coal and pumped back underground into the mine voids.

Local bores could be severely affected by water drawdown and the real concern is Hume Coal offering to fund "make good" measures to landholders who will be impacted.

We critically question why the State Government would even consider approving a large scale mining development that has the potential to impact the water catchment for both Sydney and the local rural community when globally fresh water is considered a natural resource that needs to be protected for future generations.

Damage to the existing Southern Highlands Economy

Wingecarribee Shire Council, together with local industry groups and the community have a long term plan for the region's economy based on existing successful tourism and agricultural pursuits. Why allow a heavy industry such as coal mining to severely impact the beautiful natural environment of the Southern Highlands, an area that visitors frequent to get away from the noise and pollution of the big cities and heavy industrial areas.

### Noise

Our property is listed to be acquired due to the impact from noise once the mine is operational but we will be even more severely impacted during the construction phase something that could take up to two years. This could also include noise from explosives.

Once operational we will have noise from the conveyor belt delivering coal to the stockpile, the machinery operating the stockpile and noise from the rail head while coal is loaded onto the rail trucks. This could be over a 24 hour period and will increase when a ship is in port. We are very concerned that the noise levels will severely impact our health, wellbeing and the quality of our environment (both to ourselves and our livestock).

### Dust

No one can guarantee the severity of dust that will carry over from the stockpile or when coal is being loaded onto the rail network particularly during severe wind storms. As weather patterns are becoming more unpredictable no one can clearly demonstrate the impact of the dust on the health and wellbeing of those families living in close proximity to the stockpile. Families that have chosen and are used to living in a non-toxic environment

### Visual Amenity

Even though Hume Coal has started a tree planting program the visual amenity will be impacted by the conveyor belt that will be used to haul coal from the underground seams to the stockpile, the coal stockpile itself and the rail network infrastructure. There will be days when the visual impact will be impacted by dust when fierce storms prevail.

### Bushfire

This could be a real concern and does not seem to be addressed well in the EIS. The last major bushfire that impacted the village of Medway and surrounding properties was in 1979 and the army were brought in to protect the Village and the surrounding properties.

Boral did nothing in their time to reduce the fuel in and around the Medway Colliery and there is a major risk should a bush fire happen in this area. What would the potential affects be if a bush fire were to get into the coal stockpiles on the surrounding properties? What controls should be put in place to minimise any potential risk should a fire get into the coal stockpiles.

### Consultation

Whilst Hume Coal undertook extensive consultation in preparation for the EIS the meetings were about informing the local community not about answering questions and providing follow up feedback. Indeed the people living in and around Medway Rd were ignored and not included in the consultation phase. When asked why the people of Medway were not included we were told that Hume Coal would deal with us individually once the EIS was close to being released.

### Lifestyle

If this development is approved we will be severely impacted by noise and dust once the mine is operational and during the construction phase.

We have had discussions with a number of local real estate agents and we have been advised that our property values are currently negatively impacted even more so due to the fact that

our property is listed for acquisition in the EIS. The negative impact on property values means that it will limit our capacity to provide for a sustainable retirement.

We sincerely believe that this project should not go ahead and ask that the Department of Planning and Environment after due consideration of the potential risks to the natural environment including water, the health and wellbeing of the community and the negative impact on the local economy not approve this project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L Morrison", written over the typed name.

Greg & Lynne Morrison