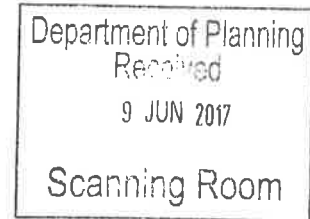


Jane Lemann
PO Box 204
BOWRAL NSW 2576



Executive Director
Resources Assessments and Business Systems
NSW Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
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**HUME COAL EIS SUBMISSION;
re SSD7172 Hume Coal Project and SSD7171 Berrima Rail Project**

I state that I object to these projects and ask the Government to reject the proposals and resume the A349 lease .

I state that I have made no political donations
Please do not summarise this submission

Introduction: I have lived in the Shire for 57 years. I went to school here, I married and have raised three children here. I am a qualified kindergarten teacher, horticulturalist and bush regeneration supervisor. I have also owned and managed a retail shop with partners and have worked in these areas, As a kindergarten teacher, mother and grandmother I particularly care about the future for our children and as a conservationist I particularly care about the future of our biodiversity. I have been a community representative on the Sydney Catchment Authority and Wingecarribee Shire Council Environment Committee. I work voluntarily in Landcare and Bushcare and own and manage a private conservation block supporting an endangered ecological community. I love and value this beautiful place.

I am a member of Coal Free Southern Highlands and the Battle for Berrima groups and really appreciate the relevant experience and guidance of the leaders of these groups. I have also attended some information sessions offered by Hume Coal. I have read a major part of the EIS for the Hume Coal Project and the Berrima Rail Project. I think that Hume Coal has submitted the EIS with due diligence to the current standard required.

I have also read:

The Australian Institute 'Economic Assessment of the Hume Coal Project June 2016

Institute for Energy Economic and Financial Analysis. The Hume Coal Mine, A Stranded Asset in the Southern Highlands August 2016

However, I object to the proposals and ask the Government to reject them and resume and quarantine in perpetuity lease A349 on the following grounds.

Ethics and Philosophy

For the survival of planet Earth there should be no further development of coal mines for burning. This mine proposes to produce 45% thermal coal and 55% coking coal.

- a. The burning of coal has added too much emissions to the atmosphere already
- b. Coal is too valuable a commodity to be burned. There are already discoveries that will use coal for the benefit of the planet and without doubt there will be further innovations for which the coal should be reserved.
- c. Our coal should not be exported for the short term gain of other countries. In this case South Korea, with inadequate economic benefit to Australia and the loss for future generations..

There is a need to apply our NSW State Principles and enforce them

- a. The Precautionary Principal: *If there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage do not proceed. WSC Draft DCP Provisions for Ecologically Sustainable Development*
- b. Intergenerational Equity. *This is to prevent the squander of natural and cultural resources and to underpin the wellbeing of earth's future generations. We, as a species, hold the natural and cultural environment of our planet in common, both with other members of the present generation and with other generations, past and future. At any given time, each generation is both a custodian and trustee of the planet for future generations and a beneficiary of its fruits*
Paul Barresi - Tulane Environmental Law Journal 60

On both these Principles the Hume Coal project is inadmissible.

This project would create a toxic ulcer that will contaminate the site and beyond, for centuries.

Just because it is underground and out of sight does not make the coal mining any cleaner.

No government could permit such a development at the head of the catchment of the drinking water for 4 million people and with a prospect of needing to increase the water supply as the dependent population is predicted to grow by another 2 million during the life of the mine.

State Significant Developments should not make a project exempt from the local rules and regulations.

- a. This project could NOT be permitted as Ecologically Sustainable Development in the Wingecarribee Shire
- b. WaterNSW could NOT permit this project as it cannot provide a neutral or beneficial effect

The Southern Highlands, positioned on the edge of the Sydney Basin plays a really important role as a natural buffer and supplier of clean air and water to the city. Its proximity to Sydney, Wollongong and Canberra provides the ideal clean, green, peaceful retreat and respite for recreational and spiritual replenishment for those citizens. It supports many

schools for children to grow up in a beautiful environment and it provides a peaceful place for retirement for the elderly. These are important clean industries employing many people. This place should never become an industrialised area. The Wingecarribee Shire Council Strategic Plan 2031 supports these clean and green principles for “ A healthy and productive community, learning and living in harmony proud of our heritage and nurturing our environment” This is NOT the place for a coal mine and thundering railways.

EIS Item 6.8 Do Nothing Alternative would result in the ideal solution i.e. the relinquishment of A349 lease to the NSW Government.

Social Effects

All enquiry into the POSCO firm reveals a history of corruption and mismanagement which makes it impossible for this community to accept the claims and promises in the EIS. Already we have suffered a lack of communication and aggressive tactics which have caused great anxiety, depression and illness in affected landowners plus an enormous cost simply to stand up for our beautiful place.

We dread the government granting any sort of approval as we feel certain that Hume/Posco will make incremental changes, expansions and prolongation thus compounding the anxiety and expense..

We see that the Southern Highlands economy has been misunderstood and misrepresented in the EIS, as have the impacts of the mine and railway on this economy demonstrating a lack of understanding of our place.

We dread the lack of certainty, the on-going expense and the emotional stress due to repetition of trying to save our beautiful place from such devastation if the government does not reject the proposals and resume and quarantine the lease A349 in perpetuity.

In response to community concern our Wingecarribee Shire Council advertises its desire to maintain a coal mining free shire. The Council consists of our elected representatives, closely in touch with the community and expected to present the community response. To support the Council many volunteers have doorknocked in the towns and villages and along the roads most closely affected to record an average 90% vote to prevent the coal mine. The Council has also received a **Keep NSW Beautiful' Regional Blue Star Sustainability Awards 2016** award for conservation of the Shire.

Property Value

There is no mention in the EIS of the devaluation of local properties that is occurring due to the possibility of establishment of the industrial activities of the mine and railway. The lack of certainty has a compounding detrimental economic effect on the region that is already evident as economic investments are delayed awaiting the outcome of the Government decision.

We dread the traumatic effect of the prolonged exploration, applications and assessments, leading to appeals and further indecision. It is inequitable to expect a community to find the resources to repeatedly keep fighting an international giant company just to keep what it most values.

Great Eastern Ranges project

The industrial activity is planned to be in and adjacent to the Great Eastern Ranges Corridor Initiative that is one of the NSW Government most constructive and far sighted attempt to reconnect the fragmented native bushland to provide for migration of biodiversity to aid its survival affected by Climate Change. The project is likely to deter certain species from accessing the corridor. Both NOISE and LIGHT pollution will be detrimental, especially to the nocturnal creatures. (e.g. Moths, Bats, Frogs, Owls, mammals etc.....) This is doubly unfortunate as the industrial activity will add to the effects of World Climate Change. Nor does the environmental management proposed adequately address the life of the project.

Water The assessment and proposed management of water, our most precious asset, is inadequate as is shown by other studies such as

Hume Project Sutton Forest Coal Exploration Licence EL 349. Ground Water Study April 2014 by Pells Consulting and Hydrollex Pty Ltd.

I saw no mention of the requirement to store ONLY 10% of the run off of rain that falls on the land that applies to all other landowners.

The ground water use and replenishment will contaminate the water stored in the bulkheads and it will take almost a century, if not more, to replenish the huge draw down area. As stated in the EIS this will last long after the mine has closed and leave us with the contaminated water problem created by the mine.

Note : It has been pointed out that the Aquifer Interference Policy is only policy, NOT law Therefore appeals would have an unfair and difficult platform to maintain a status quo.

Heritage Both the Sutton Forest and Berrima towns and surrounds are very important sites for Australia's European history. It is vandalism to allow mining and railway works onto this heritage area.

AS A STAKEHOLDER. We have lived in Glenquarry since 1962.

We feel the document does not consider effects beyond the immediate mine site.

Dust

In the past we experienced the clouds of cement dust issuing from the unfiltered Cement Works when the westerlies blew. We know that blown particles will reach not only Glenquarry but the Wingecarribee Reservoir where the cumulative effect will be damaging. The coal dust will collect in our drinking water tanks, dams and the water supply Reservoir. This will become a health hazard. The impact of the coal dust on Berrima, New Berrima, Moss Vale, Bowral, Bundanoon and Robertson will be more than unpleasant.

Noise

In Glenquarry we also experience some noise of trains on the Southern Line and the Illawarra Line. The noise levels of the trains are not adequately addressed. Obviously the preparers of the Hume Coal EIS have learned to live with noise, unlike our shire residents who live in and VALUE the quiet. The much increased rumbling of trains and whistles at level crossings will

raise the ambient noise levels and this is known to be extremely unsettling; anxious making and bad for well-being.

In certain weather conditions noise carries a long way. The increased noise levels from the train yards and workshops for New Berrima and Berrima will be intolerable.

The rhythms of biodiversity feeding and breeding are constantly disturbed by the NOISE of human machines as is clearly demonstrated by *Bernard Krause. 'The Great Animal Orchestra'*. This noise adds to the decline of species populations and the risk of extinction. This has not been adequately addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement nor the relevant Australian Standards for Noise levels..

Light

Already there is too much night light. The Siding Springs Astronomers have complained of night light from the Illawarra affecting their observations. The celestial night skies are valued by our residents and visitors. In Glenquarry our western sky is affected by the Cement Works and the mine and railway lighting will increase this effect.

Security

If approved, a Huge Bond will need be held in an indexed fund for environmental repairs for ever.

It cannot be assumed the project will be carried out as stated nor that the off-sets for Biodiversity will be successful. In fact, the whole concept of off-set is proving to be ineffective and promoting more and more damage to our already fragmented landscape.. Experience has shown us that once operating, no official monitoring is carried out and penalties are not realistically applied. (cf. Santos damage to the Pilliga) It is ludicrous to expect the project to be 'self-monitored'.

Lessons of previous extraction project disasters in this region and elsewhere in the State should govern the decision to refuse this mine. As prices of the product change the environmental safety precautions are eroded .e.g

- a. 1998 collapse of Wingecarribee Swamp – an environmental catastrophe due to unmonitored peat mining.
- b. The collapse of the creek bed in the Cataract Catchment at Waratah Creek and the loss of water into the mine – an environmental disaster
- c. Medway and earlier mines in the region are forever draining contaminated outflowing water.

Experience has shown us that no EIS has rejected a project, and that once submitted approval inevitably follows in spite of all rational objections.

Please create a precedent by refusing the proposal and resuming the Lease. A349

OUR DREADED 'WHAT IF'

There is a possibility of the proposed new mining technique being unsuccessful and the company reverting to long-wall mining or open-cut mining with associated damage.

There is a possibility of the mine being flooded with ground water and abandoned leaving us with the damage.

There is a possibility of other environmental protection promises being uneconomical and abandoned e.g. train truck covers, stockpile dust protection.....

There is a likelihood of automation greatly reducing the promise of 300 jobs being a benefit to the Shire.

There is a possibility of applications for mine extension beyond 19 years of mining such as seen at Dendrobium mine, to further damage our place and require further campaigns by the community.

There is a possibility of the mine being approved but not proceeding that would leave us all in a state of suspended anxiety. If approval is given there MUST be a time limit attached.

Value

I claim that this region's bio-diversity, water catchment, food production, lungs for the metropolis and spiritual refreshment potential is worth far more than the royalties expected (\$295m or \$12.83m pa.) from this damaging project.(Item 24.3.1)

I also point out that Hume Coal claims to have distributed \$200,000pa for community support. It is important to note that recipients are REQUIRED to raise no objections to the mine proceeding.

Hume Coal claims that the funds it has spent to date should not be wasted. This was their choice and should not be used as leverage for approval.

This project is damned as Short term gain for South Korea and Long term pain for us with very little reward for Wingecarribee Shire, New South Wales and Australia.

Item 6.8 Do Nothing Alternative would result in the ideal solution i.e. the relinquishment of A349 lease to the NSW Government.



Jane Lemann OAM
PO Box 204
BOWRAL NSW 2576
02 4887 1294
lemann@acenet.com.au