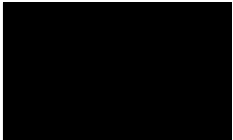




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NAME TO BE WITHHELD



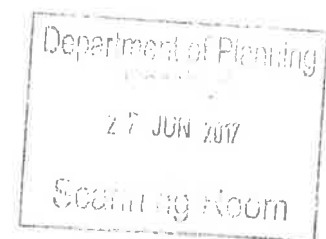
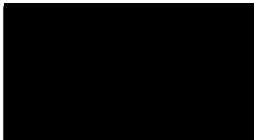
The Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney. NSW 2001

NO POLITICAL DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE

To Whom It May Concern

Attached is a Submission in relation to the proposed Hume Coal and Berrima Rail Projects.

Yours faithfully



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBMISSION: HUME COAL PROJECTS - SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Coal Mine and Rail Link proposed by Hume Coal in the Southern Highlands of New south Wales.

I've attended several meetings held by different groups opposing the proposed project, the Department of Planning and Hume Coal and have spoken with local residents (some of whom live near and/or have worked in the former Loch Catherine Mine and Medway Colliery. I have also read the EIS and attended one of the open days conducted by Hume Coal on-site at "Mereworth", Berrima.

'Change' is what we all fear most and when any new project is mooted the threat to 'Our Backyard' looms to the forefront and reasoning goes out the window.

I was born, educated, work and live in the Southern Highlands and over many years have witnessed numerous developments and changes. Some of these have not always been favourable but have become part of the fabric of the region which makes it the envy of many world-wide.

There are several key points about these proposed Projects that attract comment.

- **Ground Water Quality and Bores.** This is one the the principal concerns relating to the proposed Hume Coal Projects and the impact these will have on water availability, quality and bores in and around the project area.

The written material that Hume Coal has provided together with the information the consultants have undertaken to analyse and predict the influences of mining on the ground water system and registered bores in and around the project area, has provided an understanding that Hume Coal will put in place plans that will manage all effects on water resources in the area within the frameworks and policies set by the Government, including the Aquifer Interference Policy.

- **Noise.** For residents who live in and around Berrima the noise from the Hume Highway and the Cement Works is heard 24/7 and is high and severe at times, especially when high winds prevail.

It is understand Hume Coal is aware that a few landholders may be affected by a slight increase to the existing high level of background noise and propose to have mitigation measures in place to reduce this increase. If the proposed Project is successful then these measures must be strictly adhered to as any increase to noise levels would be unacceptable to local residents and visitors alike.

- **Subsidence and Ground Stability.** There is anxiety that parts of the Project area will be affected by ground disturbance as mining in the area progresses.

Hume Coal has admitted that there could be some minor subsidence which is predicted to be negligible to imperceptible but the mine design and method of operation together with the proposed monitoring of the area should ensure that the mines objectives are achieved.

Any surface settlement that is more than predicted must result in modifications to the mine layout and mining method.

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- **Air Quality.** Concerns have been raised regarding dust from this Project and the impact on health in the surrounding communities.

Hume Coal's planned mitigation and air quality management measures must ensure that any increase in particulate matter and dust generated by these projects will be kept below the regulatory criteria.

- **Employment and the Economy.** Many claim that young families will leave the area as businesses close due to the economic loss the region will experience because of the Hume Coal Projects.

Young families need to be encouraged to build their futures in the Highlands so that the area grows and succeeds into the future. Jobs need to be created and the Hume Coal Projects will enable this to occur, not only in the mine project itself but in the flow-on businesses that the mine will attract. The subsequent economic benefits to the region and the State will only be enhanced.

- **Visual Impact.** We love looking across open pastures and abhor the thought of any blight on our surroundings or 'backyard'.

The nearby Cement works, the Chicken Feed Mill, the Water Treatment Facility along with the kilometres of Leylandii hedging and invasive shrubbery along roadside boundaries could all be considered to have a negative visual impact on the surroundings.

Considering the information provided by Hume Coal and after visiting the proposed site, the mining infrastructure, for the most part, will be significantly obscured by the natural topography as well as by the native vegetation screens that have been planted in strategic areas.

- **Tourism.** It's also been muted that Tourism in the Southern Highlands will be adversely affected by this proposed mine predominately due to the noise, dust and visual impact.

Any negative impact on tourism from the proposed Projects would be a major concern to the economic benefit to the region. It is noted there are at least two existing tourism businesses both within 4kms of the proposed mine that are currently expanding their operations.

- **Climate Change.** This is a world-wide concern that is claimed to be 'caused' by the burning of fossil fuel.

In an ideal world carbon greenhouse gas emissions should be eliminated but we know this is not possible in the short term. It would be more acceptable to use hydrogen, produced by nuclear reactors, to produce steel.

It is reported that emissions from Australian coal are cleaner than emissions from coal sourced from other countries.

After protracted reading of the relevant information, and speaking with the proponents and residents, one can conclude that the proposed Hume Coal Mine and Berrima Rail Projects will have relatively minimal impacts on the region as a whole due to the planned underground mining system, the position of the infrastructure, the advanced mechanisms and structures, the on-going updating of monitoring mechanisms, the economic benefit and increase in local jobs and the high level of Government regulations. It's understood that the modelling undertaken by the various consultants engaged to assess possible outcomes in relation to the above points have been above current Government requirements.