

Name: SUE ATTREED

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Planning Services
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BERRIMA RAIL PROJECT EIS SSD 15_7171

SUBMISSION TO COMMENT ON PROPOSALS OUTLINED IN THE EIS

I totally object to the Berrima Rail Project proposed by Hume Coal in the Southern Highlands of NSW for the following reasons.

1. Impact on Village of Berrima and New Berrima

The proposed Berrima Rail Project will have a huge impact on the historic town of Berrima because it is so close to the town. Businesses in Berrima totally rely on tourism, and with the coal dust issue, noise and unsightly rail facility close by it is very likely tourists will prefer to go elsewhere and hundreds of businesses will be adversely affected or ruined.

The proposed railway extension will cross the Old Hume Hwy just south of Berrima village and very close to New Berrima village. Here a rail maintenance facility is also proposed, including sidings and provisioning facilities, for refuelling, maintenance and storage. This facility will operate day and night, every day, which will be extremely disruptive and noisy for local residents. Dust from the trains will also be significantly worse for these local residents and cause many health issues.

2. Impact on the Residents of Medway Road

The people living on properties along Medway Road will be severely impacted by the proposed railway extension, provisioning facilities and the mine site operations centre itself. They will be severely affected by noise, dust, odours, extra traffic and unsightly mine and railway works.

The EIS claims they have planted screening trees, but these take many years to be effective as a visual screen and are totally ineffective for suppressing noise and smells. The EIS claims that an almost 1km long, 4m high noise barrier wall will be built along Medway Rd to try and reduce noise problems for these residents. This may help with some noise issues, but it will be so unsightly and intrusive. This is a rural area, where people moved to live away from such overbearing structures.

It is totally unfair that the residents of Medway Road should have their lives and properties destroyed by the proposed Berrima Rail Project and the Hume Coal Project.

3. Visual Impact on the Area

The proposed rail crossing of the Old Hume Hwy is at the southern end of the historical Remembrance Drive section, which is a popular scenic drive for visitors to the area. The EIS claims the proposed bridge crossing the Old Hume Hwy will be designed to RMS standards, which means it will be required to have a 5.3m minimum clearance to the highway. Therefore the embankments either side will be 7-8m high, and assuming a 2% (approx.) grade required for freight trains these embankments will be around 400m long. The natural topography here is relatively flat, so such large embankments will appear overbearing, completely out of place and extremely unsightly. We cannot allow a popular tourist drive and historical site to be desecrated like this.

In addition, the rail provisioning facilities will also be located at this site, which will further make the area unsightly.

4. Proposed Rail Crossing at Berrima Road

The preferred alternative in the EIS for the railway crossing at Berrima Rd is for a rail bridge over the existing Berrima Rd alignment. Such a bridge would require around 5m vertical clearance to the roadway, and similar to the Old Hume Hwy bridge would need high and long approach embankments. Again such embankments will be totally out of place and unsightly.

5. Decommissioning of the Railway Works

The EIS states that all railway infrastructure will be removed when mining is finished. Table 2.3 includes bridges in the works to be removed, but it is not clear if the huge approach embankments will also be removed. The government must ensure that, if built, these earthworks embankments must be totally removed with all other works and the land rehabilitated to the way it currently is.

Summary

I therefore totally object to the proposed Berrima Rail Project and ask the government to reject this proposal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "P. Attreed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

I have not made a reportable political donation in the last 2 years.