

Submission of Rod Doyle on the Hume Coal Project

I am in favour of both the Hume Coal and the Berrima Rail Project going ahead. I seek the NSW government and PAC to approve these projects. In support of my submission I make the following comments.

I have nearly 40 years of experience in the Coal Industry in various coalfields in Australia and in various capacities, as a Coal Geologist, Geotechnical Engineer, an Exploration Manager and as a Site Senior Executive. I am personally familiar with many of the experts who have prepared technical reports and have a high personal regard for their integrity, professionalism and their expertise. The proof of this is to a significant extent demonstrated within their reports which are provided on behalf of the two Projects. I have also reviewed most of these documents and feel that I have a very good overall understanding of the Projects. It is my overall conclusion, that there is ample technical justification to ensure that this development should be approved.

Jobs: What is often forgotten with respect to the word jobs, is that this is livelihoods, this is families. For a generation, the project will have significant beneficial effects on 100's or 1000's of family members. It will impact directly on the unemployment levels in a region desperate to find work for youth. Already Hume Coal is making a difference with young apprentices. The people in the Wingecarribee Shire especially their youth need some hope for employment. Hume Coal will create employment at a time when there are no other similar sized development programs. Please approve the development and provide hope to the people of the region.

Community Consultation: Hume Coal have had two community shops available for the local community to access, one in Moss Vale (now closed) and one in Berrima. In addition there is the main technical office in Moss Vale. People are free to come in and ask questions and be informed about the Projects. There is a dedicated staff to assist any and all inquiries.

Royalties: Coal Royalties bring nearly \$1.2Billion worth of royalties to the State every year, year in year out. While the Greens (and now Labor) want to eliminate the Coal Industry they make no sensible case of how the lost revenue will be restored. Royalty monies go towards the public services that are provided for the benefit of all residents of New South Wales to utilise, whether it's the health system and hospitals, police, roads or government. The Hume Coal Project is estimated to provide about \$114M of royalties over the life of the mine.

Environmental Factors: All areas from soil analysis to rehabilitation have been carefully reviewed. Dust and air quality, ecology, fauna and flora, stream behaviour have all been reviewed and found to have minimal impacts.

Aboriginal History and European Heritage: The area has a record of both Aboriginal and European Heritage. Hume Coal will not have any impact of this rich historic past. It has already proven itself with its rehabilitation of houses and agricultural pursuits at all of its properties and in particular its Mereworth Property.

Noise and Vibration: There will be a minimal increase in background levels of sound. This is of such a low increase it is likely not to be noticed. The location of the mine site is adjacent to the Nations Backbone, the Hume Motorway. Some 50,000 vehicular movements each and every day travel along this artery which means that the locals are likely to not even be able to discern this difference in sound levels.

As the mine is an underground mine any vibrations will be dissipated within a short distance of their source and as such won't be felt by any of the adjacent or more distant neighbours.

Water: Currently the Project has obtained >60% of licences to put towards its water use and capture. Hume Coal are looking to purchase the remainder in the legitimate market place. Any effect on landowners water bores from mining will follow the NSW Governments make good policy.

Agricultural: Agricultural pursuits will continue throughout Hume Coal properties with the exception of the actual footprint of the surface infrastructure. In this fashion Hume Coal will continue to enhance the actual productivity of this region.

Visual: Regarding visual amenity, the surface mine infrastructure has the Hume Motorway as a border to the east and is also located adjacent to the Industrial area associated with Moss Vale. Which includes the Boral Cement works, a local sewerage treatment plant, OMYA, Steggles and a proposed brickworks quarry to name a few of the nearby local business activities. This surface mine infrastructure is proposed to be built on land already owned by the proponent. The existing rail access way used to extend to the nearby Berrima Coal Mine which had operated in the area for nearly 100 years. Hume have already planted thousands of native trees and shrubs to eliminate any visual concerns that local residents or passer-by's might have.

Traffic and Transport: It is proposed that workers will travel to the site via the existing Hume Motorway. Coal will be transported from the site via rail along the existing railway to Port Kembla. There is more than sufficient space to accommodate the transport as the line is underutilised. With the announced closure of Tahmoor Colliery in the near future and the cessation of its rail transport, it's likely that there will be a minor overall net increase on the rail line, if any.

Resources/Reserves: I had a hand in determining the Coal Resources and am confident that the amount of coal planned to be mined will be achieved.

Ground Stability: The mine has been designed to take only 1/3rd of the coal resources which leaves behind substantial pillars to support the overburden. Some 20mm of subsidence is predicted – this will minimise the effect on the overburden to such an extent that it will not cause caving or goaves in the mine. This means that the Hawkesbury Sandstone will remain intact and as such the ground water permeability will not be significantly enhanced, thus protecting the ground water system.

Gas: Often labelled as a CSG project – this is a total fabrication. There is very little gas in the Wongawilli seam at this location. Several samples have been taken and establish the very low gas contents in the area. In fact what gas is present is Carbon Dioxide and can't be used as CSG!

Safety: Hume Coal has a strong safety focus developed during exploration activities and this attitude will continue through the mines construction and mining activities.

Justification: An exceptional amount of work has gone into planning this mine to be a low impact development. Those charged with reviewing the EIS documentation will see the evidence of this. On balance I can only conclude that the benefits of this proposal far outweigh any downsides. The NSW Government and PAC should approve these Projects for the numerous benefits outlined for the people of the State of New South Wales.