

Hume Coal Project Objection

I wish to strongly object to the proposed Hume Coal mine in Sutton Forrest for the following reasons:

1. The location of the mine in the pristine Southern Highlands is a travesty and an environmental disaster waiting to happen. The reason I purchased a property in the area was the natural unspoilt beauty of the area, clean air and unpolluted waterways.
2. The impact on the water table and water bores for existing landowners. There is a risk of the underground water becoming contaminated. Water is such a precious resource that it is not justifiable to risk the damaging effects the working mine will potentially have on the water table and bores. Damage which once done may be impossible to repair.
3. There is a risk of contaminated water run-off into the waterways within the project area. Hume doesn't have a Water Treatment Plant in its plans, and with the increase in rainfall due to climate change in the last few years, the project could be adversely affected by an increasing number of serious rain events. This is not an acceptable risk to take.
4. The deleterious health impacts on the local community caused by coal dust, and associated mining activity. The trains travelling between the area and Port Kembla are going to cause air and noise pollution. Both of which will have negative impacts on the local community and visitors to the area.
5. The mine will have a negative impact on the many local businesses that rely on visitors to the area. Visitors who go there for the pristine environment and peacefulness. All of this could be lost or severely impacted if the mine goes ahead.
6. If the mine goes ahead, it will negatively impact both house prices and business values in the area, a downturn that many of the locals could not afford. It could have a large negative social impact on the region.