

HUME COAL PROJECT-- MINE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE --SSD7172

I object the proposal on the basis that water quality in growing Sydney is a national issue of health, wellbeing and long term economic viability.

The Hume Coal Mining proposal is located within the Sydney Water Catchment, which services the Sydney metropolitan basin. As such, any development proposal within the Catchment must be scrutinised in detail as it has the potential to impact this critical water resource.

Water NSW rules require that "Developments in the Sydney drinking water catchment must have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality".

We know that the Hume Coal Mine proposal will have a range of impacts including:

- 93 Bores on 71 properties will be affected by water drawdown. The impact on bores will remain for between 36 to 65 years, after mining ceases. (ES4.1.2)
7.
- It is expected that some bores affected may never fully recover.
- Treatment and release into Oldbury Creek of surplus onsite mining water in years when above average rain falls. (ES4.1.1)
8.
 - Again if there is any discharge into the surface or ground water systems in the Sydney water Catchment, then the applicant must demonstrate that the development has either a neutral or beneficial impact on water quality".
9.
- Water used to wash coal and residual "spoil", which will be pumped back underground into mine voids, which has the potential to impact groundwater systems. ES41.1.1
10.
 - The potential impacts of the Hume Coal proposal on water and the Sydney Water Catchment must be considered within the context of the widely accepted 'Precautionary Principle" which is a fundamental principle of ecologically sustainable development and which is a benchmark used in the assessment of planning in NSW.
11.
- It states:
"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. In the application of the precautionary principle, public and private decisions should be guided by:
 - *careful evaluation to avoid, wherever practicable, serious or irreversible damage to the environment; and*
 - *an assessment of risk weighted consequences of various options*

I object the proposal on the basis that it will damage local environmental quality including light, noise air quality.

- Limited mention is made in the EIS of noise impacts on the township of Berrima. There was a noise reading taken in New Berrima of 75dB, however this is close to the existing Boral Cement works and does not reflect what potential noise impacts there will be for the villages of Medway and Berrima.
ES4.5

- Potential coal dust and diesel emissions, which have the capacity to be detrimental to air quality for the residents of Berrima, New Berrima and Medway Villages, as well as Bowral, Burradoo and Moss Vale (considering prevailing westerly wind conditions).
- The Hume Coal mine proposal confirms that for a period of 18 months the coal mining rejects including toxic materials, will be stored above ground and exposed to prevailing winds.
- No details have been provided in the EIS of the mitigation measures to prevent particulates and toxic materials from this stockpile causing air contamination or pollution.

I object the proposal on the basis that the economic return to the local and state economy will be poor.

The proposal as developed by Hume Coal represents a poor economic return with incremental (economic) benefit for NSW in 2016 dollars for the 19 years of operation of only approx. \$15 million per annum. (EIS Appendix Q page 40)

This amount would provide less than three days of the total revenue required to operate Sydney trains (\$6.13 million per day average Sydney Trains Annual report 2014)

It will not offset the loss of tourism, reputation and quality reduced as a result of the impact on local economy.

I object the proposal on the basis that there is a precedent potential for the mine to be expanded in the future.

The Hume Coal EIS provides no assurance that once approved, the company or another coal miner will not seek to expand the mine beyond the current proposed scope articulated in the proposal.

If this mine is approved then the potential for the mine to be expanded in the future cannot be discounted and indeed Stage 2 mine expansions are common where a coal mine has been approved, particularly in a greenfield site.

Once this infrastructure is in place additional future applications could seek new forms of coal mining processes to remove remainder coal, such as longwall or even open cut coal mining.

On this basis the proposed mine development should be rejected by government.