

## **Opposition to the Hume Coal Project EIS SSD 7172**

I wish to object to the Hume Coal EIS on the following grounds:

### **Loss of Ground Water in Aquifers:**

Hume's EIS says that the groundwater draw down of 93 bores on properties will take between 36 to 65 years to recover and some may never do so. This will prevent current or future businesses from utilising that land for other value-added purposes.

### **Hume Coal puts at risk the region's employment in tourism and agriculture:**

Tourism supports 2,500 FTE jobs in a variety of occupations in restaurants and cafes, accommodation, heritage and unique places of interest, shops and rural agri-tourism in the Southern Highlands. Employment at Hume Coal will be only up to 275 full-time positions over the life of the project.

### **Negative environmental impacts of the mining operation:**

There will be a combination of noise, coal dust, water drawdown of bores and the possibility of groundwater pollution from Hume Coal's plan to re-inject toxic coal slurry into underground voids beneath the aquifer.

### **The financial feasibility of the project for the public appears to be negative:**

While the royalties to NSW are projected to be \$118million, these are offset by an estimated cost of \$131million for groundwater impacts. Thus, the project is deemed likely to result in a net loss of \$12.5million to the NSW community.