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26 May 2017

Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

**This is a submission to the HUME COAL PROJECT SSD7172**

I object to this proposal and recommend that it be rejected due to the many significant impacts this project would have on water, noise, air quality, the local native habitat, the local economy, and the health and well being of the local community.

We are fourth generation cattle and sheep farmers and our family has farmed the same location since 1887. We would like to carry on this tradition and leave our farm to our children however we have grave concerns as to the ongoing viability of the farm should the Hume Coal Project go ahead. We have a bore that we rely on for water for our stock and home use. We are very worried about what the coal mine will mean for our water supply especially when the EIS notes that 93 bores on 71 properties will be affected by water drawdown and this impact will remain for between 36 – 65 years after mining is finished. This creates a very uncertain future for many, many years to come.

It also states that it is expected that some bores affected may never fully recover. What does that mean for our farming enterprise? Will we be forced to sell and relocate and start again?

The EIS states that surplus onsite mining water will be released into Oldbury Creek in years with above average rainfalls. What will this mean for downstream stock using the creek? Water NSW rules require that “developments in the Sydney drinking water catchment must have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.” I don’t believe that Hume Coal has demonstrated that they will neutrally or beneficially affect the local water quality, they have not even included a water treatment plant in their plans.

The EIS also states that water used to wash coal and residual spoil will be pumped back underground into mine voids, which has the potential to impact groundwater systems. This potentially toxic mine waste can pollute the ground water in the aquifer above the mine.

We believe the potential impacts of the Hume Coal proposal on water and the Sydney catchment should be considered within the context of the ‘Precautionary Principle’ and that decisions should be made to avoid the serious and irreversible damage this coal mine could cause.

For 4 generations our family has lived in the tranquility of Sutton Forest and now we are concerned that our way of life, amenity and health will be affected by the noise, air pollution and coal dust created by the Hume Coal proposal.

Hume Coal have admitted in its EIS that residents will experience increased noise and air pollution. Potential coal dust and diesel emissions will affect much of the Southern Highlands, a place known for it's clean, green surroundings, and a place that many tourists frequent due to it's rural amenity. As any long time local can tell you it can get very windy in the Southern Highlands so there is the potential for that coal dust to spread far and wide potentially affecting the health of many residents.

We'd like to know what will be done to assure people like us who's land will be directly affected by the coal mine proposal, that we will be adequately compensated for the stress, loss of income and failure of water bores? Who is the arbitrator in such cases and are there any rights of appeal?

We have already seen the negative affect of land prices in the area due to the Hume Coal proposal. Properties such as ours which have the potential to lose our water, be affected by increases in rail movements, noise and coal dust are likely to be hardest hit. It would be a real pity to see the farm that has been developed by our family for 130 years become unworkable and worthless. What will we have left to pass on to our children? A job in a mine that only has an operating life of 19 years?

This mine should not go ahead because of the serious impacts it will have on agriculture, the environment and tourism in the local area.

I ask the Government to reject this project.

Yours sincerely,

Belinda Galbraith