

Submission for:

Berrima Rail Project SSD 7171 and Hume Coal Project SSD 7172

As residents of Berrima we are strongly opposed to the EIS and DA lodged by Hume Coal for both their Berrima Rail Project and proposed Coal Mine.

Our objections can be summarised as follows:

- o The new rail route, which will extend from the existing line to the proposed mine, will cause increased industrial-related noise levels for residents in our area.
- o The new rail route, with its additional traffic, will cause increased delays at railway crossings for residents in our area.
- o Associated coal dust and diesel emissions from the railway operations will cause increased air pollution for residents in our area.
- o The proposed mine will have negative impacts on water bores in the area.
- o The proposed mine will pump 'spoiled' water back underground creating a negative impact on existing groundwater systems.
- o The proposed mine will cause increased industrial-related noise levels for residents in our area.
- o Associated coal dust from the proposed mine, including from its stockpiles and coal mine rejects, will cause increased air pollution for residents in our area, particularly as the prevailing winds come from the south and west.
- o The proposed mine will cause a fundamental change to the existing landscape - the current rural farming environment will be replaced by a mining excavation environment.
- o The proposed mine will cause a fundamental change to the existing character of the Berrima district - for example, the proposed mining operations workforce will have a significant and negative impact on local road traffic.

Apart from the specific objections outlined above, we note in more general terms our opposition to the way the entire process has been handled. For example, Hume Coal bought out local farmers under the guise of a pastoral company. Hume Coal published a Environmental Impact Study with images of rural and farming landscapes with not a coal mine in sight! We thought we were reading a submission to 'green' the local area. This has been yet another example of the power of foreign-owned big business with government support, to totally overwhelm a small rural community and to change its entire character seemingly overnight.

Fiona and Graham Fudge
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