

Executive Director Assessments and Business Systems  
Planning Services  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**Re: Hume Coal Project EIS 15\_7172**

I strongly oppose the Hume Coal Project.

It will I believe have devastating effects on the local environment and community and leave a lasting scar on the surrounding area which we the local residents shall have to contend with for years to come.

Sited near the historic town of Berrima, a major tourist attraction in the area I have grave concerns regarding damage that will be caused by coal dust that will inevitably be blown into the town. The many sandstone buildings will be stained, the town will lose its green, clean environment and merchants and local residents will have to be continually dealing with the problems that come with coal dust. Tourist will not want to come to Berrima and a loss of jobs and income to both Berrima and the surrounding area will result.

The introduction of new jobs should the Hume Coal Project proceed will not compensate those local residents who have lost their jobs as a result on its introduction. I believe that many of the skilled workers required by Hume Coal do not reside in the local area and will be employed from farther afield.

The proposed site is also in close proximity to the Wingecarribee River and the rail line which will carry the coal passes through residential and agricultural areas, tourist destinations (Burrawang and Robertson) and passes the Wingecarribee Reservoir, a major Sydney water catchment area and a recreational area for sailing and fishing. I am concerned that even minimal continual coal dust contamination along the rail route will have a detrimental effect to the environment in these areas.

The rail line also transverses very steep country after leaving Robertson. Should a heavily loaded coal train experience mechanical problems on the decent this could result in a major disaster.

There are also a number of rail road crossings including Sutter Road, Moss Vale and the Illawarra Highway at Robertson along the route. Lengthy delays occur now at Suttor Road and these will only increase should the project be approved. I believe major work will need to be undertaken at all rail/road crossings but particularly in the residential areas for the safety of pedestrians and motorist should the project be approved and that this should be paid for by Hume Coal.

I strongly oppose the Hume Coal Project as I do not see any benefits to the local community and only detrimental effects to the environment should this project be approved. This is a view I believe is shared by the vast majority of Wingecarribee Shire residents.

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11<sup>th</sup> June, 2017