

Executive Director Resources Assessments and Business Systems

Planning Services

Department of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

6/6/17

Hume Coal Project EIS 15_7172 Submission.

I would like to respond to the Posco / Hume Coal Mine proposal to develop a coal mine in the Sutton Forest area of NSW.

I have been a resident in the Southern Highlands for the last 30 years.

My primary concern with the proposed mine development is its potential impact on water quality in the greater water catchment area for Warragamba Dam.

Hume plan to pump potentially toxic mine water into Oldbury Creek , a tributary of the Wingecarribee River. Wingecarribee river is one of the major rivers providing drinking water to Sydney , with a population of approximately 3.5million directly depending on this water supply.

In 1998 , we had major problems with water quality in the catchment. Between July and September 1998, cryptosporidium and giardia were found in the Sydney water supply.

This was later attributed in part to raw sewage entering the supply from treatment plants in both Bowral and Mittagong. There had been heavy rain events in the Southern Highlands in August and September of 1998, which caused overload from the treatment plants going directly into the water ways. In subsequent years these treatment plants have been up- graded , to hopefully cope with similar future events.

My issue and concern is that if we have similar rain events , and there is every possibility in the future, toxic residues and water from coal mining activities of Posco/Hume will have a similar outcome to the cryptosporidium issue.

Please keep in mind that it's not going to be as simple to manage , as asking the general population to boil their water before drinking. The drinking water could become unfit to drink , because of the toxic mine waste present.

It beggars belief , how any politician , political party or government agency could advocate the potential risk to a drinking water supply for a city with the population of Sydney, as they will be doing if this mine is to proceed.

As a concerned citizen , I would like the decision makers to not approve the Posco mine development at Sutton Forrest .

Yours sincerely

Paul Greethhead



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