

Marjorie Lobban
10 Charlton Close
Bowral 2576

7 June, 2017

HUME COAL PROJECT EIS SSD 15_7172

I wish to register my **opposition** to this project, based on the following reasons. I believe these reasons constitute a sound basis for the application for this underground mine to be rejected by the government, whose duty it is to consider the environmental and social impact of this mine, now and in the future.

Coal is a discredited fuel source, with a high cost to the globe in exacerbating global warming. This alone should mean the mine should be rejected.

Water resources and security

The impact on water resources is both known and unpredictable. The mine will impact the aquifer feeding Southern Highlands bores. Once drained, this aquifer cannot be resuscitated. The impact on agriculture in the region will be devastating.

The impact of damage to the aquifer is not clear in terms of existing trees, one of the trademarks of the area. Don't put these at risk for short-term commercial gain.

The possibility of pollution of Sydney's water supply via local watercourses draining into Warragamba Dam is real. Mining projects are always experiencing 'unexpected' leaks and accidents (which they often cover up). They are not good citizens.

Dust pollution

Strong Highland winds will mean that dust from stockpiles and trains will be blown across the region. This will cause environmental damage and bring risk to the health of residents.

Impact on tourism

The mine is presented as having a commercial advantage for the Southern Highlands. Tourism is a huge source of revenue for the region, and any gain from mining will be balanced by a loss of tourism due to pollution, loss of charm and damage to the environment.

In conclusion

On balance, the risks inherent in this development simply do not justify its implementation. It is not an industry for the future, it is a project to exploit a finite energy source firmly rooted in the past. It is a cynical exercise for short-term gain without valuing its wider consequences.

Knock it back.

Sincerely



I have not made a reportable political donation in the last 2 years.