

Heather and Fred Turner
30 Birriga Avenue
Bundanoon NSW 2578

2nd June, 2017

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

**Re: Submission against Hume Coal Project in the Southern Highlands.
EIS SSD 15_7172**

To Whom it may Concern,

We have very strong objections to the construction of a new coal mine at Berrima in the NSW Southern Highlands.

We moved from Sydney to Bundanoon, in the beautiful Southern Highlands when we retired, for the clean fresh air, beautiful bush land, and wonderful communities.

Tourism is a very important business for the economy of the Southern Highland villages that will be destroyed if a coal mine is allowed here. No one will want to visit our beautiful villages and the wonderful Morton National Park when they are destroyed by the coal dust, dirt, noise, and pollution caused by an operating coal mine in the area.

We also understand that this proposed coal mine would be operating in the Sydney Water Catchment area. Yet we read that Hume Coal does not have a Water Treatment Plan and they will at times release water into the Oldbury Creek. This is a totally unacceptable risk of toxic mine wastes being released into our local rivers and waterways which are part of Sydney's water catchment area. That's just crazy. Who in their right mind would want to damage the main source of clean fresh water for anywhere let alone the largest city in Australia.

There is a growing wine industry in the Southern Highlands and this proposed mine will destroy many of the vineyards and farms of the area and severely damage the economy of the Southern Highlands if it is allowed to go ahead. We understand this is confirmed by a recent report from the Australian Institute.

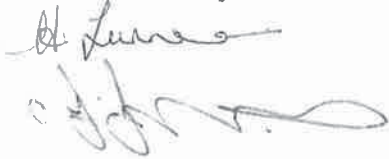
The rail service through the Southern Highlands at present is totally unsatisfactory so to add dozens of coal trains to the system would cause a serious overload and even more inconvenience to residents. Villages all along the route of these dozens of coal trains will be covered in coal dust and diesel fumes that will pose a serious risk to the health of residents.

We also understand that the extra trains generated by Hume Coal's mine would cause many closures and delays at level crossings in the area. This is a concern for the delays it would cause to emergency services as well as to residents.

Coal is a dead industry. World demand for coal is decreasing. We should be promoting more clean energy resources rather than destructive and polluting coal mining.

Over 80% of residents of the Southern Highlands object to the new mine. We don't want this in our community. We urge the Government to make the sensible and only decision to reject this mine that will destroy our beautiful Southern Highlands.

Yours sincerely

Two handwritten signatures in dark ink. The first signature is 'H. Turner' and the second is 'Fred Turner'.

Heather and Fred Turner