

I have no political affiliations and have made no donations to anyone.

I live in the Southern Highlands and in my work, speak with hundreds of affected and concerned residents.

**START OF SUBMISSION:**

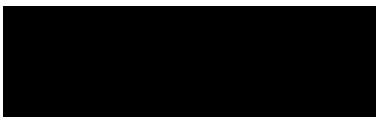
After having read the EIS, I have the following specific concerns in my objections to the proposal. While I can see advantages in employment with the Hume Coal (South Korean Coal) proposal, as outlined (rather than detailed) in the EIS, it is impossible to balance this with the massive problems thus generated.

Also, the final chapter (ES5) deliberately avoids the obvious conclusion that the coal extracted and the profits generated from this Australian land are both to be taken overseas.

1. **Heavy vehicle access to the site.** Mereworth Rd is the only road planned for "upgrade". It is logical, apparent and recognised by Hume Coal that much of the heavy vehicle access to and from the site will be through the main street (Argyle St) of Moss Vale. This is the direct road link with Wollongong, Port Kembla, Nowra, South Coast, and Illawarra. These localities will be the source of much of the building materials and labour. Anyone living in the Southern Highlands is well aware of the already serious congestion through Argyle St Moss Vale at all times. Hundreds of additional daily vehicle movements to and from the site during construction and operation is anticipated. This will be unacceptable and place enormous strain on the patience of residents. Hume Coal recognises the serious problems currently experienced in Argyle St and accepts that these "intersections will be congested ..... and there will be no significant worsening of intersection traffic operations". This is an illogical and contradictory statement and again suggests avoidance of a serious impact on the local community. No alternative has been suggested and the EIS completely ignores this issue. So, the question for Hume Coal is: *HOW do you plan to eliminate the congestion along Argyle St caused by your proposal?*

2. **Dust blowing from the stockpiles and rail trucks.** There is no guarantee that dust will NOT be a serious problem for Moss Vale residents and other Southern Highlands residents. Prevailing winds will bring the dust and assurances that stockpiles will be maintained to reduce dust and that rail trucks will be covered during transit are no comfort to anyone knowing how economics change procedures. We know that the mine would not close if, for example, uncovered wagons travelling at night to avoid detection were actually detected and notified. *WHAT do you plan to do if and when dust from either source actually happens?* Ref ES4.7 shows that Hume Coal recognises that air quality will be a problem that they are NOT prepared to accept! Bushfires and dust storms do actually happen.

3. **Long wall mining.** The risk that longwall mining will eventually happen is real, despite assurances this is not planned. Economics will require this cheaper method to be approved, and if not approved, who would dare report this method being used. Assurances are worthless when profits are involved (ref Adani/Carmichael mine). We see now how authorities agree to changes when pressured with the threat of closure by foreign organisations. *HOW will you guarantee longwall mining will not happen, ever?*



Department of Planning  
Received  
3 1 MAY 2017  
Scanning Room

4. **Water!** Hume Coal (proponent) is clearly not adequately addressing the water problem. Please advise *HOW you plan to provide safe, drinkable water to all Southern Highland residents, animals and crops.* e.g. "all bores drawn down by more than 2m due to the project will be eligible for compensation - financial or otherwise" .... This is typical of the inadequate planning and avoidance of the real issues. Hume Coal has not addressed HOW landholders will be compensated by loss of agricultural activity due to the obvious and recognised water reduction and also disruption to movement.

5. **150m depth!** The proposal in the future for open cut mining is highly likely for obvious reasons. Approval would be easy. *What guarantee do we have that this proposal would NEVER be considered?* We need to have assurance that the method of mining when uneconomical WILL result in mine closure and full rehabilitation of all the affected areas.

6. **Traffic underground.** Residents in nearby areas will be affected by underground traffic and have been advised that their buildings WILL shake and crack as a result. Hume Coal's process of buying as much of the land in question as possible, is recognition of this problem. So, HOW will you compensate affected landholders you cannot convince to sell to you? Ref ES4.6: Hume Coal recognises 24 hour activity that will create excessive noise and vibration in the "excepted" construction activities. This is unacceptable and a deliberate distraction from their preceding paragraph. The assessment regarding vibration effects is clearly incorrect as detailed by independent sources. *Where is the detail?*

7. **Disposal of mine waste.** This is a serious ongoing problem for all mines and the proposal to compact waste in created voids sounds good. However it is not possible to seal this type of waste underground or under ocean permanently (check with the radioactive waste engineers who are troubled with this dilemma right now. *May I suggest that Hume Coal, as owners of the waste, propose to take ALL waste back to South Korea, trusting that "accidents" in transit, would not happen. The EIS is deficient in detail, and the data provided is unreliable and inadequate.* Water quality is essential for all agricultural activities in the Southern Highlands and the proposal to safely manage waste underground is just not possible and Hume Coal must be aware of this.

8. **Rehabilitation of the site after closure.** Ref ES4.12 . The inadequate generalisations given offer insufficient detail, maybe, deliberately. Quoting "Dystrophic Yellow Kandazol" is a convenient diversion and returning the soil to the required depth has not been addressed. There is no offer or requirement of Hume Coal to provide a large bond as insurance against the foreign company abandoning the mine and ignoring the requirement to rehabilitate the land. *We should not wait until "within 5 years of when closure begins".*

9. **Economics** Ref ES4.14 I cannot believe these wild and low figures listed. They are peanuts compared with the profits that will leave this country. *A 1 billion dollar bond held by the Australian Govt. seems like a good start.*

10. **Aboriginal Heritage** ref ES 4.16 *The decision to list aboriginal sites as moderate or low significance is simply not appropriate.* All these sites are of high significance as once disturbed they are gone forever. However I note that payment to registered Aboriginal parties (read as "consultation") is likely to be a sweetener.

Thank you for reading and responding.