

Name: Deborah McLaughlin

Address: 27 Gibraltar Road, Bowral NSW

Date: 20 June 2017

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

This is a submission to the HUME COAL PROJECT SSD 7172

I object to this project and recommend that it be rejected.

The EIS has fundamentally misrepresented the economies of the Southern Highlands. This is an agricultural region, one of NSW food bowls. The Southern Highlands is a tourist region with hundreds of businesses directly and indirectly associated with tourism; visitors from Sydney come year round to wed, to visit the wineries, to sample the local produce and to appreciate some of most beautiful scenery our Country has to offer. This region has been visited since the 1800s. It has a long history as a tourist region. The mine will see its appeal significantly diminished and many businesses will be negatively impacted.

As Co-owner and Director of a Southern Highlands based honey business, my primary concern is the susceptibility of bees to airborne contaminants. Bulwarra Bees has 20 hives around the Southern Highlands. *If this mine is approved, the bees will be amongst the first to be impacted. The effects will be devastating to the local bee populations and to the honey industry in this area.*

Bulwarra Bees has for the last 3 years won or placed at Sydney Royal, we are producing the best dark honey in Australia as awarded by National Honey Show in 2015, 2016 & 2017. Australia's honey industry is the best in the World. It is a billion dollar industry that deserves protection.

I am concerned about the effect the coal mine will have on the Southern Highlands air quality and our water. Residents have cause for concern; our water tables, air quality and traffic will be adversely affected. More trucks on the roads, delays at railway crossings are a few of the consequences that we would have to endure. This is a fast growing residential area with many young families moving to the region. A thousand new homes have been built in the last twelve months in the Renwick, Nattai Ponds, Retford Park and a new estate in Moss Vale. The Highlands offers affordable living, quality education, a rural lifestyle and clean air for our children.

If this mine is approved by the NSW Government it will viewed very harshly by our Community. This will not only be immediately detrimental to our businesses, It will be a disservice to the people of NSW to jeopardise our food, our water and our air for short term International profits and short term employment (only 300 jobs) in this area.

I ask the Government to reject this project.

*Deborah McLaughlin*  
Director  
Bulwarra Bees