

I wish to register my support for the Hume Coal project and the associated Berrima Rail project.

The Hume Coal project and the associated environmental impact assessments have shown the extent to which a company, in this era, must research and assess the potential impacts of development within NSW. Many groups have complained at the sheer size of the document, claiming its length is prohibitive to critical review or that it is simply a 'marketing document'. These claims are nothing but an example of the scare mongering and misleading comments made by the local activists which have plagued the community for the past several years.

The EIS is the result of years of thorough research and engaging experts to undertake detailed assessments across every environmental aspect of the project – from ecology to geology; social impact to health and wellbeing. The result is a comprehensive assessment of the environmental, social and economic aspects of the development and clearly shows the length to which the company has gone to ensure the sustainability of its proposed development.

I am aware and understand that the use of coal as a power generation source is declining in developed nations. Coal has been a fossil fuel which has powered the world for generations and is responsible for driving development and prosperity. What I dislike most about many sectors of the community, both nationally and globally, is that so many believe we can drop coal tomorrow and all the world's energy needs and climate goals will be achieved. This is outrageous.

In January 2017, it was reported that South East Asia has 400 coal fired power plants in the construction pipeline. The article states that "Southeast Asia is one of the fastest developing regions in the world" and "Electricity demand in 2035 is projected to increase by 83% from 2011 levels" (*Source: energydesk.greenpeace.org*).

These numbers make it clear that whilst developed countries such as Australia and the Europe, whom have the capacity and wealth to move away from majority coal fired power, developing nations such as those in Asia and Africa are approaching milestones where affordable energy may soon be accessible for the millions of citizens.

To all the self-righteous anti coal activist groups and anti-coal media, I ask the following:

1. Why do 'we', who have enjoyed the benefits of affordable and accessible energy for decades, now have the right to dictate to developing nations what access and source of electricity they should install?
2. What right do we have to demand these countries install less reliable and often intermittent renewable energy sources?
3. Are we in the position to demand that these nations continue to burn biomass and dung to heat their homes and cook their meals, because we refuse to acknowledge that burning these are somehow better than the burning of high quality, high energy coal?

I acknowledge that one day, coal may no longer be used anywhere as a power source but.... for the next 50 years (or even more) it will continue to play a major role in global power generation. If we want to limit the carbon emissions from burning coal for power, these countries must be supplied with the highest quality coal – Australian Coal. ***The type of high quality thermal coal that Hume Coal will produce as a secondary product through its mining operations.***

SOCIAL LICENCE TO OPERATE (SLTO)

Recently, a lot has been said about mining companies and the requirement that they obtain a 'social licence to operate'. Given that the government places so much emphasis on SLTO (yet failing to obtain an SLTO for their own public works e.g. Light rail, Sydney); more work must be put into defining and measuring 'social licence'.

I personally believe that Hume Coal has a social licence to operate within the Southern Highlands of NSW, and so do the hundreds of my colleagues and acquaintances whom I associate with on daily and weekly basis.

I DO NOT believe that any of the local activist groups have a social licence, and strongly believe that it is a direct result of these groups that there is so much fear and angst surrounding this project. Take for example the local bus company. It was reported that in 2016, Hume Coal had taken out advertising on buses within the local community. Great – this injected funds into a local business which promoted freedom of speech and created jobs for the advertising agency, the signwriting Company, bus drivers and generated vital revenue for a regional bus company. Within weeks, phone calls had been made, threatening bus drivers, the busline’s staff and their assets. (*Berrima Buslines pulls Hume Coal advertising, Radio 2ST 2016*).

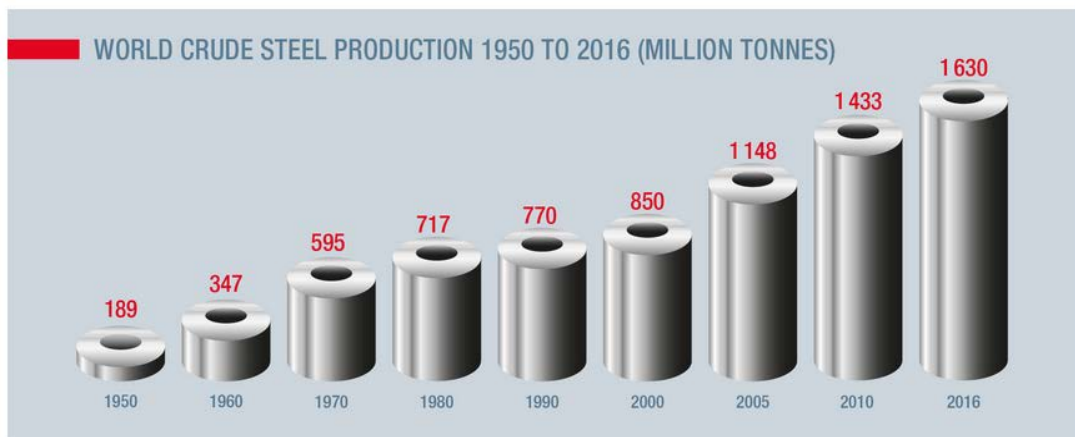
Furthermore, for the past several months I have been approached by members of the activist group, the Battle for Berrima, in both Berrima and Bowral to “sign their petition”. On each occasion I have declined to participate, they have questioned my integrity, doubted my consideration for the town or the environment and ultimately made me feel unwelcome in this town.

In my opinion, ***these activist groups have done more damage to this community than a coal mine could ever do – the activists do not have a SLTO and never will!***

COKING COAL

The primary product mined by Hume Coal will be coking coal, a raw material which is essential to the production of steel. Both the Australian and global steel market relies heavily on the supply of high quality Australian coking coal, to produce high quality steel products.

World steel production continues to grow. In 2016, the world produced just over 1,600 million tonnes. Most of the growth came from new industrialising nations – Brazil, China, India, Iran and Mexico (World Steel Association, 2017).



The World Coal Association states that 700kg of coal is required to produce 1000kg of steel; therefore in 2016 approximately 1,141 million tonnes of coking coal was required to produce this steel. Any claims that “coal is dead” or “we don’t need any coal mines” either do not understand the role of coal in the steel making process, or just choose to selectively ignore coal’s role in this process.

Coking coal is also a key ingredient in the delivery of renewable energy. As an example, a 1MW wind turbine required 220 tonnes of coking coal. This is the coal required purely to produce the steel required in the structure, and excludes the coal required to produce the cement foundation of the wind turbine (<http://www.qmeb.com.au/seeing-the-bigger-picture/>).

POSCO

In a last ditch effort by the local activist groups to persuade the community, the activists have begun to question the integrity of the parent company POSCO. These claims were made by the Coal Free Southern Highlands president in a presentation to Wingecarribee Shire Council in May 2017.

Well what the he failed to acknowledge, but not limited to, was the following,:

- POSCO Donates \$300,000 to Haiti Relief (*Korea Times, October 2010*)
- POSCO expanding volunteer services [76,000 volunteers in 35 countries] (*Korea Times, May 2013*)
- POSCO gives over 100 new homes to southern poor households (*Vietnam Breaking News, June 2017*)
- POSCO will offer free educational courses on big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and internet of things (IoT) for young jobseekers (*Korea Times, 14 June 2017*)
- **Korean steelmaker Posco finally has one hand on Arrium and its Whyalla steelworks, with the group promising a \$1.4 billion overhaul that should give Whyalla a future (*The Australian, 16 June 2017*)**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Hume Coal has always been a strong supporter of the Southern Highlands community through its sponsorship program and Charitable Foundation. I have witnessed the success of local sporting teams which have secured continuous sponsorship across several years.

The company has also been a strong supporter of local apprentices and trainees, supporting over 12 local community members who currently undertaking, or recently completed, their qualifications. Hume Coal deserves great credit for this initiative because the program is solely focussed on benefitting our future generations, providing them with an opportunity to live and work locally and in turn supporting our local economy!

The fact that the local activist groups claim this is purely Hume Coal “buying” support shows how out of touch these groups are with our community and grassroots sports and education. As a parent of grown up children who played multiple junior sports, I always appreciated how much companies supported the local clubs and organisations – driving down the costs for parents for rego, insurances, uniform, etc. In a world of ever increasing costs, no parent wants their child to miss out on team sports purely due to cost, so thanks to companies such as Hume Coal for allowing equal opportunity to all the community to be involved.

Finally, I believe the Hume Coal project and associated Berrima Rail project **should be approved** in its entirety for the following reasons:

1. It will create **much needed development** in this regions
2. It is **consistent with the current industry** within this Shire
3. It will create **300 long term careers** for our community
4. It will **support local business**, local organisations, local clubs
5. The development will have **flow on benefits** in the northern, southern and eastern LGA's
6. EIS addresses the impacts and proposes the **highest standard** mitigation measures.
7. **Hume Coal HAS achieved their social licence to operate**