

Submission on the Hume Coal Project (7172)

- I object to the project
- Please withhold my name from the list of submitters
- I have not made any political donations

I strongly object to the project for the following reasons:

Water

- Water bores will be affected by water drawdown, with this impact likely to remain for many years after mining ceases – possibly to never fully recover
- Water used to wash coal and pumped back underground will pollute the groundwater
- Sydney water catchment supply under threat due to release of surplus mining water
- Rules required by Water NSW state that “*developments in the Sydney drinking water catchment must have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality*” – I fail to see how any of the above could be “neutral” or “beneficial” to our water supply

Environmental impact

- The impact to water bores, the aquifer above the mine, and groundwater, will have a significant effect on the surrounding environment which is reliant on these water reserves
- Toxic mine rejects will be stored in stockpiles above ground and exposed to winds – this will have a seriously detrimental impact to air quality and therefore public health
- Future expansion of the mine has not been ruled out, which would further impact the environment in years to come

Agricultural and property values

- Agricultural land prevalent in the Southern Highlands region will be adversely affected by the environmental impacts of the mine, with significant impact due to the loss of water bores which they rely on
- Property values in the area will fall, further impacting the ability of agriculture to expand in the region

Tourism and economic impact

- The local economy in the Southern Highlands is highly dependent on tourism – the environmental impacts this mine will cause will result in many tourism dollars being lost, greatly impacting the local economy
- The economic benefit of the proposed mine for the local economy and NSW government is minimal and far outweighed by the adverse impact on our water supply, environment, local agriculture and tourism – it’s just not worth the risk!

I strongly object to the project and call on the government to reject this proposal.