HUME COAL PROJECT: SSD 7172

I question the benefits of the proposed Hume Coal Project SSD 7172'

My opinion is that there are more negative elements than positive elements regarding this project

Any project or business proposition should be a benefit to the (a) one funding it, (b) government bodies and (c) community

This proposal fails in each of these areas

(a) The long term future for coal is under question.
(b) Royalties to State Govt are insignificant and no monies are being put back into the local community
(c) The project does not benefit the community in employment (no local residents..required labour will be from outside the shire)

The project has many negative impacts:

The Shire is an important water catchment area and this project has the potential to damage water resources and water quality in underground systems
71 properties will be affected by water drawdown and may never fully recover
There will be noise pollution to residents in the villages of Berrima, New Berrima and Medway
Coal dust and diesel emissions will be detrimental to air quality for residents
30% of workforce in the Southern Highlands are in retail and hospitality and rural industries BUT only 0.5% in mining
Whatever increase in mining jobs will come at a cost to existing jobs in above mentioned sectors so opening new mines will damage existing economy
It is a probability that there will be a reduction in tourism as the area becomes less attractive due to coal mine activity and this will jeopardise existing jobs
Investment in the region will be less attractive to prospective investors

Southern Highlands is an attractive area for tourism.
It caters for weekend escapes, dining, weddings, golf and wineries within a picturesque countryside. The introduction of a coal mine and associated infrastructure and rail facility are not compatible with this region, and also threaten the livelihoods, future investment potential, enjoyment and character of the Southern Highlands

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