

**Heart Spring** are local bottlers and distributors of local spring and mineral waters as well as compostable bio degradable packaging (no plastic).

## **Pristine Environment**

Our products since 2002 are bought on the basis of coming from a pristine environment. A coal mine is not pristine either in reality or tellingly in the way people will perceive it when choosing a product. I could no longer offer such assurances to the local, Sydney or export markets. I therefore like many other businesses have on hold investment decisions awaiting the outcome of this threat.

As an essential part of marketing my products, I publish the results of water testing (ALS Environmental 10/16) to indicate the products freedom from environmental and agricultural influences:

	Mg/L Heart Spring	Mg/L WHO Standard
Aluminium	<0.01	0.2
Arsenic	<0.001	0.010
Barium	0.016	0.3
Cadmium	<0.0001	0.003
Copper	0.002	2
Lead	<0.001	0.01
Manganese	<0.001	0.5
Selenium	<0.01	0.01
Zinc	<0.005	3
Mercury	<0.0001	0.001
Hexavalent Chromium	<0.01	0.05
Total Cyanide	<0.004	0.07
Fluoride	<0.1	1.5
Nitrate as N	3.03	50
Nitrite + Nitrate as N	3.03	50

## **International Recognition**

A products we distribute Highlands Still (Highlands Flat Mineral Water), has been internationally awarded.

<http://www.itqi.com/en/>

The most prestigious panel of Michelin Chefs and Sommeliers have awarded the superior taste award with 2 gold stars in 2015 and again in 2016. Bottled at the source in the Australian-Southern-Highlands, our water has achieved success against the great waters of the world in a blind tasting competition.

Following on from this, production facilities have been set up and a distribution centre is being established in the area, with an eye to export markets.

## **Local Jobs**

Naturally this will result in more local jobs, which is too early to quantify.

Currently, we provide approximately 125 hours a week to local people for driving, bottling, administration, book keeping, marketing, web developing and design. We additionally provide bottling for another distribution company that employs 4 staff (approx. 125 hrs/pw) since 1998.

Whilst the average growth of our business has been 16.5 percent each month over the last two years, employment opportunities should only increase for us and our 4 other main competitors in the area.

## **Southern Highlands Food and Wine Clusters**

The area is responding to tourism and the lifestyle interests of an increasing number of its residents with regards to buying local and choosing clean food (non-mass market) sources. With the advent of the Southern Highlands Food and Wine Clusters, this movement is being strengthened with the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce. Give the amount of environmental destruction around the world and in Australia, such an area would only increase in value as a destination for families and tourists alike. It is why we moved to this area to raise a family 20 years ago and many others we meet.

In turn Cluster members are meeting each other; learning about each other; and helping each other grow by working co-operatively, buying from each other, passing on leads and networking.

This combined with the increasingly strong village market culture, is developing the region into a unique food & wine tourist destination.

## **Hume Coal**

The Hume Coal Submission considerably downplayed the environmental impact as well as the amount of tourism and business taking place in this area. I believe it is illegal to make false and misleading statements under Australian Law.

I would like to see Hume Coal held to account and prosecuted if found guilty for downplaying the value of our local economy for their own purposes. Also if guilty, they should be charged damages for the amount of disruption to this community in having to defending itself for almost a decade. I think it is the government's responsibility to use its resources funded by the tax payers to truly assess the damage to families and people's lives. I believe Government has a duty of care to its people.

## **Resolution**

We have endured almost a decade of struggle - I therefore implore that you reach a decision which does not continue to hang over the head of business planning for another decade or more which happens all too often in these cases.