

To whom it may concern

Submission regarding Hume Coal's submission to mine Sutton Forest and the surrounding area.

The Southern Highlands are a world renowned picturesque and heritage laden tourist mecca for both Australian and International travelers wanting to experience the charm and historical significance of this incredibly beautiful, pristine environment.

My wife and I have been regular visitors to the Highlands since the early seventies and have stayed in countless, homes, hotels and quirky B&B's, attending the Bong Bong races and being somewhat disappointed when the races were stopped for a period, rejoicing when climbing the center hill to see the race was restored with Bong Bong back on the calendar.

My reason for briefly explaining our history with the Highlands is to emphasize the transformation of what was Highland bush into the fantastic area we all know as the Southern Highlands. This transformation was done with sometimes expert work or by an unskilled land owner wanting to contribute to the ambiance of the area. In all cases though the work was done to, not only improve their own property but to contribute to the overall atmosphere that is 'The Southern Highlands'.

The thought that an Industrial enterprise, such as Hume Coal is proposing, is contrary to everybody who has an interest in the area. To see a monster train set rumbling through various properties, crossing roads, gouging out hills to dump in valleys to give trains level pathways is a total bastardization of the countryside.

To have Hume Coal admit that the mine will affect the Aquifer and have neither the remedy or Capital guarantee to fix their damage is quite unbelievable. Of course, the massive impact that the loss of the Aquifer will have will be clearly visible as ground cover dies off, major forests become leafless skeletons, livestock unable to water themselves, and the value of property that people own will become worthless dust bowls, worth nothing.

Which brings me to the massive imbalance between the money resources of Hume Coal and the united alliance of both those affected by the plans and those not affected. All these people, whether affected or not, are fighting to protect, not only their property, but to protect The Southern Highlands. Hume Coal is simply throwing petty cash at their application whilst the property owners are putting everything they own against Hume. Of course, eventually Hume could proceed because they will have bled the objectors CASH dry. **This must be fixed!**

Australia is very fortunate, we have vast mineral deposits across Australia, just because the **Southern Highlands** is close to a **deep-water port** thus enabling a **'cheap' coal transportation system**, shouldn't be the **justification** for the **destruction** of its **Aquifer**, the **countryside**, the **tourist industry** and the **collapse of various crafts and tourism activities**.

Yours Faithfully,

John and Jill Seymour, **The Southern Highlands, Pristine, Historical and World Renowned**

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