

27 June 2017

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### Objection to HUME COAL EIS – Application Number SSD 15\_7172

I strenuously object to the Hume Coal project. Hume Coal is an Australian subsidiary of the Korean Steel Company POSCO. The impact on air quality, contamination of ground water and impact on agriculture is of grave concern to the local area.

Hume Coal Pty Limited (Hume Coal) proposes to develop an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure (Hume Coal Project) using their exploration Authorisation 349 (A349) approximately 3 km west of Moss Vale, see Map below. Key community concerns include potential impacts to water resources and agriculture, potential traffic, noise, air quality and hazards (including micro particulates from coal dust) and general nuisance impacts. Note the **rail line between Port Kembla via Moss Vale to Berrima** is under a separate development EIS and is expected to be running coal rail wagons 24/7. The proposed use of high powered locomotives and trains are expected to create dust emissions, vibration and noise. Of serious concern is the continuous hazard of coal dust emitted from these trains back forth through Moss Vale to Port Kembla as well as the concerns to the health of horses and other animals, where water and air quality hazards will exist.

The method that is used to predict subsidence it can not be relied upon until mining has commenced. There is no way of knowing with any certainty the actual outcome. Whilst Coal companies can try and predict potential outcomes but it's site specific. It is also noted that only 1 of the over 200 mines in Australia has actually been rehabilitated, despite all the promises at the time of EIS or proposal. See DEA report below.

<https://www.dea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Submission-into-the-rehabilitation-of-mining-and-resources-projects-04-17.pdf>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-05-29/coal-mining-to-blame-for-poor-state-of-thirlmere-lakes/7455320>

Ironically it has been analysed that **Hume Coal is expected to lose money on every tonne produced** and clock up a net cost to the owner of more than half a billion dollars, two new reports say. "At its peak, the mine would produce about 3 million tonnes a year, with about 80 per cent of it the higher-valued coking coal used in steel making. Since the coal seam sits below an aquifer the operation will need to use techniques not used previously in Australia, and extract only about one-third of the available resource," threatening the real-time viability of the mine. Tim Buckley, an analyst with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, "estimated total costs will reach \$130 per tonne of coal over the proposed 19-year life of the mine, well above the \$112 a tonne POSCO is likely to sell it for." I would argue that the damage to the equine industry, the tourism industry, agriculture and lifestyle would outweigh the promised 150 jobs that Hume promises to create. Article by Sydney Morning Herald, Peter Hannam, August 11, 2016

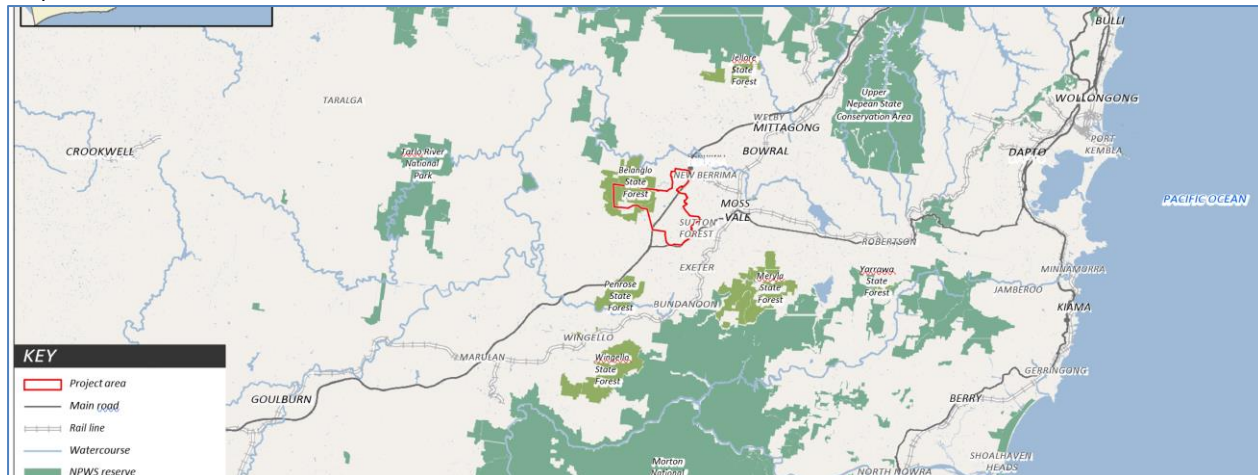
<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/posco-to-lose-money-on-hume-coal-should-snap-up-cheap-assets-instead-reports-20160810-gqp2on.html>

A separate report by The Australia Institute used similar financial modelling but attempted to assess the wider economic and environmental impact, including on groundwater. It found that POSCO could expect to lose \$539 million on the proposed project...."It's a small green-field project operating in a sensitive place with a complex geology," said Rod Campbell, one of the authors of the TAI report commissioned by anti-coal activists in the region. Sydney Morning Herald, Peter Hannam, August 11, 2016. **The proposed and anticipated long term losses to the Hume Coal mine put into jeopardy the promised rehabilitation for the area once the mine closes.** The huge added funding required from POSCO is needed to develop this mine as an underground coal mine. They expect to operate for 22 years, to extract 50 million tonnes of coal, followed by a closure phase of nominally two years. Of concern is the currently limited knowledge of the "non-caving extraction method" impacts on potential subsurface subsidence, groundwater contaminate and geological and environmental impacts. We do know there will be long term impacts on horse breeding, quality of agriculture and water, and

most critically air quality. It is noted that Horse Trainers have brought this very real impact to the attention of politicians over a year ago and have since moved their horses also to the Southern Highlands.

<https://www.australianmining.com.au/news/horse-breeders-lash-out-against-coal-development-in-the-hunter-valley-2/>

Map of the Hume Coal Mine Area A349:



Whilst Hume Coal have tried to avoid sacred sites containing an Aboriginal heritage site and the Paddy's River Box (*Eucalyptus macarthurii*) trees, which are listed as endangered under NSW legislation, a paper based promise does not provide an iron clad guarantee of protection. In the area, there exists threatened fauna habitat, endangered tree species and other Aboriginal heritage sites. This is purely lip service to comply.

Also, it is noted that the gas content in the Wongawilli Seam within the project area they claim to be low (0.25 to 0.5 cubic metres [m3] of gas per tonne, of which 96 to 100% comprises carbon dioxide) and have therefore deemed gas drainage wells are not required for the project.



Moss Vale -  
showing  
proximity to  
mine.

Hume's ridiculous solution to the average drop in bore water available (their own admission that this will happen. A drop of between 2 and 80 meters in some bores) that they will "truck" in replacement water to affected land holders which was stated at the Information Night Exeter Hall early May is not a viable solution and in fact verifies that there indeed will be an Environmental impact to the Water

Table. Hume's figures on draw down of bores, is around 40 meters per bore, which is unsustainable as an amount of water to be replenished.

Lastly they note that approx. 414 full time equivalent jobs for the construction phase then up to 300 full time equivalent in the production phase. There will be over 500 job losses and loss of investment in the Southern Highlands as a result, far outweighing the benefits. These job losses are in tourism, horse and equine, hospitality and holiday venues.

Thank you for your anticipated support in this objection.

Yours sincerely

Kirsten