

26th June, 2017

Department of Planning and Environment
Attn: Executive Director, Resource Assessments

GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001



ANNA KING LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTS PTY LIMITED

'woll'li'
c/- berrima post office,
berrima NSW 2577
mobile: 0407 771 384
phone: 02 4877 1384

Re: Hume Coal Project SSD 7172 and associated Berrima Rail Project (SSD 7171)

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a submission in relation to the impact of the proposed mine on neighbouring properties. Mining is a heavy polluting industry; it has a heavy impact on the environment, our natural resources and local community. The existing aesthetics of an amazingly beautiful, rural landscape to Heavy Industrial has a huge disturbing impact.

The EIS states in generic terms: any detrimental impacts shall be remediated and the local residents remunerated however the RISK to the natural environment, namely the aquifer of the Sydney Water catchment is alarming and it can NEVER be rectified. The impact on the local community is IRREVERSIBLE!

My property is 2kilometers from Hume Coal's Northern boundary. I live and work on this property. I purchased this property exactly 20 years ago in 1997 from my Uncle who owned the property since 1983. I have a strong connection to the district dating back 35years.

I operate a successful, award winning Landscape Architectural office from here and also operate a successful Australian Stock Horse Stud breeding, breaking, training and showing this iconic Australian breed and own National, Royal, State Champions and Horse of the Year Tittle, also the 2017 National Champion ASH mare. I am the current Secretary for the Australian Stock Horse Society – Moss Vale Branch.

This proposed mine will have a most significant and detrimental effect directly on myself, businesses, clients and the greater Community in which we work and interact.

Mining is a heavy industry. In complete contrast to the existing site: - the highly toxic heavy metals will be produced. The EIS states that these toxins will be remediated and rehabilitated but my concern is that the science cannot guarantee this. The EIS discusses the use of "Coal reject handling" & "temporary" (emergency) reject stockpile as required – open, unanswered question, what does this mean?? And where will it end up.

Mining has a direct impact on WATER. The EIS states that 71 properties shall be directly impacted by the HUME COAL mine, as a massive industrial user for the duration of the mine and then up to 65 years after mining ceases... Money that we have invested into

maintaining and managing this very precious resource will become virial. In addition, our tanks that currently hold beautiful rainwater will now suffer from the contamination from the contamination of COAL DUST accumulating on our roof tops, paddocks, dams, rivers, creek lines and run off. The EIS recognises this as a significant impact on the local residents and offer to “Make good” this impact with financial or otherwise this impact – BUT THEY CANNOT PUT THE WATER BACK – this is a HIGH RISK and what keeps my stud ALIVE and Sydney Water!!!

Any disturbance to the Sydney Water Catchment, basin and the aquifer is an irreversible RISK.

Any runoff from a mining site is contaminated.

Mining has a direct impact on AIR QUALITY. Spring time in the highlands we experience gale force winds daily (50-60k/hr gusting up to 80 -90k/hr some days 100k/hr +), it is what we all live with as part of the lifestyle. The wind recordings stated in the EIS are alarming deficient and not believable as a detailed study..... Living within 2-3kilometres of the proposed coal stock pile and a sufferer of asthma, the toxic fine coal dust/particles that will destroy the air quality from the proposal is tremendously distressing, coupled with the diesel emissions, Hume coal will NOT be able to contain within their boundaries.

Mining near a conversation area. We are adjoining a gazetted NSW conservation area, where unique flora is listed as THREATENED SPECIES.

There have been Paddy’s River box identified in the EIS (located near the proposed Coal stock pile) as a threatened and endangered species, the nominated method of fencing them off and “maintaining” these trees for the duration of the project seems frivolous for such an endangered species!

Explosives: Direct impact of the health and welfare of livestock! Horses are a flight animal, explosives are alien to horses – causing considerable stress to these high performance animals.

Exporting natural resource. The destruction of our beautiful landscape, flora and fauna and natural resources owned and shipped to another country for no gain or benefit to Australia.

Visual Amenity. The proposed 8 storey high stock pile of the coal, plus the two other adjunct stock piles, is along the major motor corridor between Sydney-Canberra-Melbourne within 2-3 kilometres from an ELEVATED SETCION of the Hume Highway. The tree lines that have been planted are as tube stock and will take 10 – 15 years to establish and perform as an adequate screen to achieve what has been stated in the EIS. The EIS DOES NOT outline what species or the densities that have been planted, to determine the ability to successfully screen the proposed 8 storey high stock pile.

Traffic Impact. The proposed “Surface Infrastructure” will be located off the “Mereworth” Property as the workforce will be increased between 300 to 414 jobs the car movements will directly impact the local roadways of Medway Road, the Old Hume Highway and Golden Vale Road a small rural potholed roads and the huge volume on the Hume Highway. When the Medway Colliery was operating the local residents had to protest and rally to reduce the speed limit from 100 to 80k/hr along Medway Road due to the near misses with the school bus and the Coal Semi-Trailers. The impact of the traffic

generated by the proposed mine will impact the local traffic to the detriment of the local users.

Noise: overland conveyors, rail line, a helipad, interior roadway system and On-Site accommodation. Currently we experience no impact and enjoy a rural, creative relaxed lifestyle without sleep disturbance by choice.

Land Values: property prices are already negatively affected. Years of saving and investing into personal properties suddenly plunged, contributing to adverse health and stress levels, placing all of us under financial pressure and exposed to significant risk.

Non-Local On Site Accommodation Village: - sounds like a satellite village (clearly not supporting any local businesses), the EIS does not provide any information on the scale of the accommodation and its impact of the surface infrastructure: - noise pollution, light pollution, operating hours, and waste contamination.

Economic and Job Growth: - the EIS justifies the Coal mine as viable due to the economic growth and job creation. The Community of Berrima and the greater Southern Highlands has in the last 5 years: stopped multiply Development Applications including- DA's for "Leppington Speedy Seeds" to open a seedling/propagation Greenhouse – along Medway Road; closed Berrima Diesel; stopped a DA for cabins/huts proposed by Zen Oasis along Medway Road; closed the General Store for not complying with Zoning laws; stopped a DA for a Hospice to name a few.

By comparison to a Mine all these proposals are quite low impact/inconsequential Developments, yet the Berrima community did NOT want the "Economic and job growth" as outline by Hume Coal! It would appear the economic benefit would be for others – namely State and Federal Governments at the expense of the local residents.

EIS statement ES4 Impact assessment – *"it is not anticipated that the proposed project will cause any significant adverse impacts to the local environment or community"*

1. The authors were commissioned by Hume Coal – seemly quite biased summaries and without any adverse outcomes!
2. Gross "Motherhood" statements – *"social impacts"* (already enormous psychological detriment to the locals).
3. Only 18% of the local Community support the proposal

The Southern Highlands is a unique cool climate environment which should be protected from all potential adverse afflictions. The RISK of the destruction to air quality, water and endangered species are grounds for refusal of the Hume Coal Project and Berrima Rail Project.

Regards

Anna King BLarch, RLA, AILA
Company Director