

To: NSW Department of Planning

SUBMISSION: HUME COAL PROJECT EIS SSD 15_7172

I am against this proposed mine on so many levels but I would like to pick just a few arguments against its approval, the most pressing being the threat to the local aquifer. If I have got this right, there is a backup plan for when the aquifer is fractured and the water bores belonging to the landowners surrounding the mine are no longer operational. Hume Coal will kindly truck water in for them to replace the natural ground water. Surely this solution is borrowed from a Monty Python, or maybe an old Goon Show sketch in which a man offers to knock someone's teeth out and replace them with genuine set of false ones! Hume Coal cannot be serious!

I'm sure it hasn't escaped your notice that even big business wants to get on with developing and using renewables as an energy source rather than that of a highly polluting material like coal.

And as for jobs, I think you will find that the local tourism industry is a much larger employer than local coal mining enterprises, with longer term prospects of increasing employment into the future, so long as it isn't compromised by the approval of this mine.

In conclusion, why would the NSW government even consider compromising the Southern Highlands sustainable tourism and food production industries by approving this proposal to create a new, polluting, non-sustainable, environmentally destructive coal mine?

I look forward to hearing that this Hume Coal project has been rejected by Planning NSW for the above-mentioned reasons.

John Marks