

Anna and Richard Turner
'Dochairn'
7351 Illawarra Highway
Sutton Forest, NSW 2577

Major Projects NSW

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Hume Coal Project EIS SSD 15 7172
Objection

I refer to the EIS regarding the proposed coal mine in Sutton Forest by Hume Coal.

We own the property 'Dochairn' which is 140 acres - Lot 2 of DP 1213201 and have been coming to the area for 40 years. My wife's parents bought the adjacent property 'Roseneath' in the 1960's and 'Dochairn' in 1997. We leased 'Dochairn' from them for 15 years and purchased it last year.

Our property is within the Hume Coal lease area but not directly within the area proposed for mining.

We run the property as Primary Producers and engage a manager to run the operations. We intend to live there permanently within the next 2-3 years and it is important that it continues to be a viable financial proposition for us. The bore is a vital part of our business plan

We object to the proposed mine on the main following grounds:

1. Water

We have numerous dams on our property and a licensed bore. These are vital to our agricultural operations both now and in future years. We note that the Water Impact Assessment - Appendix E Section E55 states that:

- The "drawdown on private landholders bores will be **significant**"
- The impact will be for approximately 22 years
- Increased pumping costs will be incurred

The predictions relating to both bores and surface water cannot be exact science and could in fact be understated resulting in even worse impacts than the dire ones noted above.

Promises by Hume Coal that they will compensate for loss of water is not the issue- in our situation money cannot replace the loss of water.

We contend that this is totally unacceptable!

Also the plans to reinject potentially toxic mine waste used in the coal washing process back into the mine has the potential to pollute groundwater in the aquifer above the mine and could impact on bore water.

Hume Coal says it will occasionally pump mine water into Oldbury Creek which connects to Wingecarribee River but the occurrence of this is not quantified and if it occurs more than predicted could impact on the Sydney Water Catchment.

2. Air Pollution

Coal dust can carry a long way in windy conditions and dust from both the mining operations and trains could be a threat to health.

3. Impact of the train

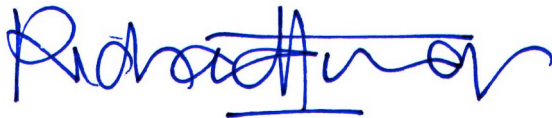
While this is the subject of a separate EIS, the proposed new train line is obviously only happening due the mine and is going to have significant adverse impacts of its own in addition to those of the mine - traffic, noise and dust plus the unattractive visual aspects. These impacts will extend to the wider area of Moss Vale, Robertson and the Illawarra region. This will obviously have significant impact on the 17 affected level crossings which we understand will add 24 minutes of closures per day.

Conclusion

Our concerns are not just for our property but for the whole area which is inherently beautiful due to a balanced combination of air quality, water and aesthetics of the environment. The train line will have obvious visual impacts while the mine's will be largely underground and insidious and we believe the impacts will be long term and permanent.

We strongly object to the application by Hume Coal due to the possibility of permanent and unacceptable long term impact to some of the finest areas of the Southern Highlands and indeed NSW. The State Government has a responsibility to protect this area and as the issues related to long wall mining are unknown it should not permit the proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Turner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anna and Richard Turner