

# FEAST

## AT BERRIMA

Licensed restaurant  
1 Market Place Berrima 2577  
02 4870 1268

### OBJECTION TO THE HUME COAL PROJECT

29/06/2017

I am a director of the company Feast at Berrima Pty Ltd which operates a restaurant in the town of Berrima, at the southern end and close to the surface works section of the proposed Hume Coal mine project.

I am also a permanent resident of the area, having my home in the nearby town of Mittagong, and a rural property at Bullio some 30km to the west.

We object to this project in its entirety on a number of levels, some particular to our situation and our local business, and others on a more general environmental protection basis.

#### Major Points:

1. The risk of damage to the aquifers that are vital for the health of the local environment, local food production and to part of the drinking water supply for the whole Sydney region. The EIS assertions that no damage will be done by the proposed mining methods are not provable, and so provide no answers as to how or if any damage done would ever be repairable.
2. The damage to the local landscape by construction, railway works, mining subsidence, surface buildings and stockpiles, and even any final rehabilitation. The Southern Highlands of NSW is a major tourism area very close to Sydney, and many local individuals and businesses rely on the reputation of the area for its clean and green credentials to support their livelihoods. This applies in particular to the hospitality industry of which we form a part. These landscape values will be significantly damaged by this mine as proposed.
3. Traffic and pollution. The transport both within the mine site and by road and rail outside the site will cause dust and noise pollution, in an otherwise unaffected area, and diminish the liveability and desirability of the area for residents and visitors alike. The proposed amelioration measures can never be assumed to be 100% effective, in all climatic and weather conditions, let alone occasional equipment failures and breakdowns.

The issues raised above, are addressed in the EIS, but not to the satisfaction of many experts in the various detailed fields, or the local residents such as ourselves. The economic benefits – the only local benefits even explored In the EIS -in no way come anywhere near balancing out the major and very long-term risks of environmental damage should almost any aspect of the proposal not work out as envisaged in the EIS, for any reason, be it technical, environmental, or even political, local or international.

The local community is almost 100% against the mine proposal and is not convinced that the touted benefits will in fact materialize over the couple of decades of operation, or that they compensate in any significant way to the short-term damage and disruption caused by the mine construction, operation, and closure, and far worse, the potential for permanent non-repairable damage over generations if not centuries.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Philip Martin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A' and 'P'.

A. Philip Martin  
Director: Feast at Berrima Pty Ltd  
Resident: 30 Brewster Street Mittagong

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