

Executive Director Resource Assessments and Business Systems
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney, NSW 2001

Roseneath
Exeter Road
Sutton Forest NSW 2577

29th June 2017

Re: Hume Coal Project SSD 15- 7172 – Rejection

After reviewing the DA and EIS submission for this project, on behalf of my family and me, we strongly object and recommend that it be rejected.

My reasons are

Impact on Trees and Native Habitat.

I respect that this DA needs to be assessed on its compliance to State and Federal Environmental Policies. However I strongly urge the Department gives fair consideration of this development to the "accumulative" environmental impact which this and other mines are having on the usually irreversible loss of habitat across this State and Country.

While it is reported that the mine will need 101 ecosystem credits and 550 species credits for which offsets will be required, it has not been clearly outlined how this will be managed. I pay particular attention to several critically endangered ecological community key areas. Including the impact on *Eucalyptus Marcarthuri*, the koala and other animal habitats within and adjoining the proposed mine sites. They include black swan breeding grounds, several species of rare frogs as well as a stopover for water hens, pelicans and blue cranes in our wet areas and dams. The parrots are also prevalent in the upper areas. All this will suffer with coal mining.

Impact on the existing Highlands Community

The Wingecarribee Shire Council Social and Economic Development Plans are all about tourism, health and wellness and food and beverage. Reference to over 1.13 million domestic and 34,000 international visitors (and growing) coming in to the Southern Highlands yearly is an indication just how significant. Furthermore with the State Governments plans to increase dwelling numbers and job opportunities in key growth areas such as Moss Vale, the potential benefits of employment in the mines, which require specialised skills, will be minimal compared to the increase in employment opportunities retained in a non mining 'clean and green' environment.

Considering the Mine's EIS Appendix states a return of \$15 Million per annum, this is ridiculously small compared to the potential cumulative effect and breadth of tourism, the increase revenue from more expensive housing based on demand for 'clean air' country living and the return on investment for health and wellness, local produce establishments etc.

This is without elaborating further to the well documented concern for:

- 1) coal dust coming out of the mine, and open cartage trains, impacting on the environment health and wellness of the community.
2. Train and road crossings which will be required impacting on the serenity and traffic flow at numerous cross over points on the way to the port.

Impact on Water Catchments

At a recent debriefing by concerned community people at Council, experts spoke of the incorrect reference to the amount of water that will be used (1GL/Year). The inaccuracy was established by

close assessment to a similar type mine with similar geological characteristic (i.e. Airlie Colliery-Lithgow) and the error noted was in the order of 7 to 10 times more water will be required. My concern with this issue is that this will have significantly more draw down on local bores, impacting on local farms for their cattle and crops and invariably the impact on other socio economic activities in the area. Furthermore in addition to the impact of wildlife already stated above, it is inevitable the discharged from the mines at these volumes after use will potentially drain/leach causing aquifer contamination. The Hume EIS report offered assurances as they have identified an impervious layer referred to as 'interburden'. However, I have heard that some experts are questioning the authenticity of this layer and therefore should be confirmed by an independent expert.

This is without elaborating further to the impact of contaminants on the main Sydney catchment areas which should be independently assessed.

Integrity

My final concern is expressed in knowing more about Posco, the owners of Hume Coal and their track record internationally. If one is to profile this company internationally they do not have a good track record when it comes to their approach to social and environmental management.

This involves:

- i). Deforestation issues in Papua
- ii) Human rights issues in India
- iii) Forces Labour Issues in Uzbekistan
- iv) Corruption issues in Vietnam
- v) System rigging issues in their own market Korea.

Does the Australian, State and Local Governments really want to have to deal with explaining issues should they arise that they accepted the integrity of a EIS and DA from this mining company, knowing of the track record this company has internationally.

I ask on behalf of my family and me that the government rejects this project.

Yours, Sincerely



Duncan McDonald