

I strongly object to Hume Coal and its proposed mine for the following reasons

1. **WATER, WATER AND MORE WATER.** The EIS itself states that 93 bores will be affected and as water effects do not stop at boundaries there is potential for many more drawdowns which in turn could affect wetlands then creeks then rivers, all of which flow into the Sydney catchment area
2. **“Make Good”** what does this mean if you destroy aquifers and ground water how can you “Make Good” one owner of a very productive bore estimates it would take 18,000 trucks every year to supply this amount of water **EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FOR ONE BORE. or is the pumped Toxic mine waste water to be the “Made Good” There are no plans for a water treatment plant**
3. **Toxic mine waste reinjection** A potential disaster waiting to happen to groundwater, if any is left. Their idea of drilling deeper bores is a nonsense if the groundwater left is polluted by toxins from the mine waste. The quality of any water under the coal seam could also be of very poor quality and possibly saline.
4. **Coal Dust.** The Southern Highlands is known for its highly windy weather Where will this potential risk to the health of our community be headed Sutton Forest, Moss Vale. Burradoo, Bowral, Robertson and Berrima. Can the present hospital cope with the influx of Asthma emergencies this could generate. I think not, not without serious expensive upgrades to existing facilities that are already stretched
5. **Property Values.** A highly valuable area like the Southern Highland will have property prices devastated. This has already been seen in affected areas. Sustainable rural businesses will fail due to water loss and jobs will be lost and the flow on effect of many wealthy people leaving the area will leave many businesses without their main customers and more jobs will be lost. Tourism will also suffer and more jobs lost. All this to be replaced by a few miners not living in the immediate area
6. **Coal Trains.** The company projects 4 loaded trains per day of approx: 44 wagons which means 8 movements a day 7 days a week resulting in excessive noise, harmful dust and serious delays at the 17 rail crossings encountered on the way to Port Kembla especially Robertson and Sheepwash Rd., potentially impacting police, ambulances, fire brigades etc.
7. **Social Impacts.** For 6 and a half years the community and affected citizens have been subjected to aggressive behaviour from Hume Coal leading to excessive costs from legal action to defend ourselves and our homes. Litigation from Hume Coal led to a 7 month blockade on one property not from a bunch of so called activists as Hume likes to call us but real people many retired, as they had the time to commit, turning up day after day because they have something worth fighting for. For Hume Coal and supporters (of whom there are very few), one minute we are greenie activists then we are left wing radicals trying to undermine the economy of the country and then wealthy landowners only thinking about our property values. Living in the lease area I have seen the effects of on my neighbours as they struggle to come to terms with having their futures destroyed and feeling abandoned by the very Government they thought would protect them. Many are elderly citizens who have felt, having worked hard and contributed to society all their lives, betrayed as they grew up in a time where they felt justice would prevail, now they face an anxiety which is crippling their final years with fear and worst still loss of faith in a system they always supported. This and the overwhelming uncertainty caused by this threat of a coal mine has led to anxiety, depression and ill health. The community has been divided, as is the method so often used by such unscrupulous companies, but the real tragedy is seeing organisations, which have a duty of care for our youth, giving the example of teaching ethics on one hand but forgetting them as soon as there is easy money available from Hume Coal. Unfortunately we are seeing this across the entire country with sports groups, schools, local, state and federal politics leading to a loss of faith in institutions across the board not just in The Southern Highlands. This becomes a slow process

of what can only be call indoctrination".Look how wonderful we are supporting the community giving jobs spending money" all the while planning to destroy our water, our air ,our health, our sustainable jobs and slowly our sanity as they rape our land and take their spoils overseas.HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?.My family has owned our property since 1835 and to think of it being lost on my watch to an overseas steel company beggars belief and as a result I now have to take medication for depression and I feel hopeless when my own Government chooses not to protect me or my community

8. Fit and proper person rule.I thought that there was an obligation on companies to be considered "a fit and proper person" well I do not think Posco fits the bill.Posco has an appalling international record for corruption.environmental destruction and/human rights abuse.This is documented in India,Uzbekistan,Vietnam,West Papua and even their own country South Korea. If the do not care about their own country why would the care about ours.Do not tell me about worlds best regulations etc.History does not support that

9. Intergenerational Equity

We all as citizens of the world have a duty of care for future generations to pre serve our environment .The Queensland Land Court agrees see the following QUOTE

"New Hope Group's \$900 million expansion of the New Acland Mine in the Darling Downs has been thrown out by the Queensland Land Court.

Mr Smith said while there would be undoubted economic benefits from the third stage of the Acland mine it would damage groundwater for farmers in the vicinity of the mine "for hundreds of years to come".

" This breach is sufficient to warrant rejection of the MLAs [mining lease applications] and draft EA [environment authority] applications," Mr Smith said in his decision.

"Groundwater considerations are such that the revised stage three project should not proceed given the risks to the surrounding landholders and the poor state of the current model."

The Future. As a responsible Government you must consider Global Warming even if it seems too hard. We all know "Clean Coal " is a nonsense and we have alternatives.We have enough coal mines for our transition process. We in the Southern Highlands will not accept this mine and I feel that as a government the wasting of taxpayers money defending litigation from Communities fighting for their rights to clean air and clean water is not an option.The tide is turning and Governments will be held responsible for not acting as some are now in the USA and Holland