

29 June 2017

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

To Whom it May Concern,

RE: HUME COAL PROJECT EIS SSD 15_7172

On behalf of the Southern Highlands Food and Wine Inc, an association that represents the food and wine industry of the Southern Highlands, we write to register our objection to the proposed Hume Coal Project.

Over the last two decades or so we have seen the growth of the food and wine industry in this area that has led to a thriving and growing agritourism industry. As the food and wine industry grows, which it will, we also have the opportunity to develop into a substantial food bowl for Sydney, Canberra and other surrounding areas. This area is increasingly being recognised as being a significant Australian producer for quality cool climate foods and wines.

The food and wine industry requires;

- Water
- good soil
- appropriate climate
- clean air, and
- a nearby market.

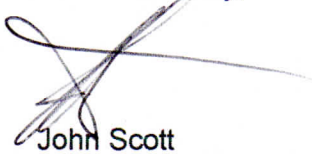
A number of studies study recognize the food potential of the Southern Highlands. Given the natural resources, water, soil and clean air, this area is particularly suited to intensive covered cropping that would extend the growing period out from 180 to 230 days per year. We have been working closely with the Wingecarribee Shire Council to also recognize this economic development opportunity.

Importantly, we have seen growers and other industries (equine industry) move from the Hunter Valley to the Southern Highlands. Should this mine go ahead then the opportunity cost for the food and wine sector will be substantial, far surpassing the Hume Coal Project potential which is a one off project with enormous ramifications. Our members live here, employ local personnel, purchase locally and operate sustainable businesses. Members operate within the wine, dairy, honey, berries, fruit, oilives, truffles, grazing, to name a few activities. The food and wine industry is growing and annually contributes in the order of \$250 million to the local community. We expect we will surpass the Hunter Valley in the next decade and become a major National and International destination.

Coal is in conflict with everything we do as an industry. It is an unsustainable business and puts at risk our water, air and soil quality.

On behalf of the food and wine industry of the Southern Highlands we register our objection to the development of a coal mine in the Southern Highlands.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John Scott', written over a horizontal line.

John Scott

Secretary

Ph:0410590044