

27th June 2017

Planning Services
Department of Planning & Environment,
GPO Box 39,
SYDNEY. NSW 2001

To the Commissioner,

RE: HUME COAL PROPOSAL & ASSOCIATED RAIL EXTENSION

My husband Brett Delamont and I (Alana Bush) have owned number 339 Medway Road since 2001. Brett is a 5th generation Southern Highland resident.

Our holding is a 30 acre lifestyle property, which supports our daughter's equestrian pursuits in high level Eventing, encompasses acres of manicured lawns and extensive landscaped gardens, and allows us to adopt the outdoor lifestyle we enjoy. On a regular basis we have some of the country's most competitive eventing horses staying on our property.

My husband Brett and I are not against mining, our concerns are purely the way in which we will be disadvantaged by the location of the mine infrastructure.

The access to our property is on Medway Rd and 2 of our boundaries are bordering Hume Coal owned land where the above ground mine workings are proposed.

We have recently been to an information day at Mereworth held by Hume Coal and it was during this day that we spoke with the Hume Coal specialists with regard to dust, noise, groundwater and visual impacts to our property.

We have since expanded upon this information and Hume Coal have completed a montage of photographs from strategic points around our property which they have then superimposed the mine workings upon. This clearly shows the visual effect which we are faced with not only along the length of our Medway Road boundary but there is an extreme visual impact as you turn into our driveway.

We have tabled our concerns below:-

1/ **Noise**

We have asked Hume Coal to supply me with the operating noise modelling results for our property and I note that they are expecting an increase of 2 decibels during the daylight hours and 3 decibels during the night time hours.

My question is how do we determine that this modelling is correct, will the Department of Planning and Environment undertake their own assessment and what will be the outcome if the noise exceeds the Hume Coal model?

Our property is a lifestyle property and we spend a large percentage of our time enjoying outside activities therefore the noise can hardly be mitigated with double glazing of our windows or similar.

This will have an immediate effect on the lifestyle of each member of our family.

Is it now up to us as the Landowner to engage the services of a noise specialist to undertake a series of studies to set up a precedent prior to the mine being approved or is this something the government will undertake?

2/ **Ground Water**

It has been indicated to us by Hume Coal that there will be no effects to our groundwater supply by the mine activity.

Although we are outside the actual proposed mine workings we presume there may be an effect on the level of our 30 megalitre Irrigation bore and we would like to know how this will be dealt with.

As the property has no town water the bore is our sole supply of water for all livestock (horses) amenities, including paddocks, enclosures, stables, performance arena, as well as the cultivation of horse feed, gardens, lawns and all manner of other requirements around a country property.

We would also like the government to address our concerns about water contamination in regards to the proposed mining activity.

3/ **Coal Dust**

Our property is within very close proximity to the above ground coal stockpiles that have been proposed in the EIS. We have seen the modelling on the air quality and Hume Coal have indicated that our property will be affected to a minor degree.

Will the government be undertaking their own studies to confirm that Hume Coal has assessed this correctly? Looking at the modelling at Mereworth during the information day was slightly alarming in that we felt they had not considered the wind correctly. We have lived on this property for 16 years and every year we have trees blown down from severe winds blowing from varying directions.

As we have previously mentioned 2 of our boundaries border the land mass where the above ground infrastructure will be located.

We have major concerns about the impact of the coal dust on our property our lifestyle and our health and the welfare of the competitive horses on our property.

4/ **Visual Impact**

Hume Coal have been very cooperative in bringing a photographer to our property and taking photographs from a few places around our property.

When the proposed stockpiles, stackers and reclaimers are embedded into these photographs it is clear to see that the visual impact along Medway Road and also from the minute you turn into our driveway is immense.

This is a matter which is of great concern to us as it negatively impacts the market value of our property

5/ **Economic Impact**

We have major concerns that the above factors will have a detrimental impact on the market value of our property.

As we have mentioned before and I am here to reiterate the point we are not against mining but we do not want to be disadvantaged by where Hume Coal choose to place their above ground workings.

We have owned this property for 16 years and have poured many hours of hard work and extreme amounts of money into this property only to be told by 3 different Real Estate Agents that the market value of our property will be substantially less if the mine is approved.

No mitigation methods will alter this fact.

In conclusion we feel that the impacts we have highlighted above will have a significant impact on our property and our way of life.

Regards

Brett Delamont and Alana Bush
339 Medway Road Berrima